



George Brown was the son of Francis Brown from Inistioge and Mary Lackey from Tullogher. George was reared in Manchester during the early decades of the twentieth century. At that time it was an urban area of high unemployment and appalling poverty and deprivation.

As a young man, he became very involved in the campaign for the betterment of the rights of workers and their families and by the early 1930s was regarded as the leading member of the British Communist Party in the Manchester region. George's commitment to working-class activism and democratic principles led to him growing increasingly concerned with the rise of Fascism throughout Europe.

When the fledgling Spanish Republic found itself under threat from the forces of Franco, backed by German and Italian military might, he was among the first to enlist in the International Brigade in defence of Spain's democratically elected government. George Brown arrived in Spain in January 1937 and quickly was to see action.

In his efforts to stem the tide of Fascism he paid the ultimate price. He was killed at the Battle of Brunete in the defence of Madrid in July 1937. He was thirty years of age.

## The Inistioge George Brown Memorial Committee

The Square  
Inistioge  
Co. Kilkenny  
Ireland

**Chairperson**  
Pádraig Ó Murchú

**Vice-chairperson**  
Jim Walsh

**Secretary**  
Seán Walsh

**Treasurer**  
Joseph Doyle

**Public Relations Officer**  
Amanda Richards

**Committee**  
Terry Bannon  
Davy Dywer  
Martin Gahan  
Jerry Malone  
Thomas O'Neill  
John Walsh



### FRIDAY 24TH JUNE

**7.15pm**  
Welcome and Wreath Laying by  
**Pádraig Ó Murchú**  
(Chairperson GBMC)

Meet at George Brown  
Memorial Plaque  
in St Colmcille's Cemetery

**7.45pm**  
St Mary's Church, Inistioge

Proceedings chaired by  
**Jimmy Kelly**, Irish Secretary UNITE

**Topic – Socialism in the Modern World**

**Michael D. Higgins**  
will speak on the subject of  
*The Left in a Changing World*

**José Antonio Gutiérrez**  
will speak on the subject of  
*Socialism in Latin America*

**10.00pm**  
O'Donnell's Lounge:  
Light Refreshment and Music

### SATURDAY 25TH JUNE

**11.00am** – St Mary's Church, Inistioge  
Proceedings chaired by  
**Jack O'Connor**, President SIPTU

**Harry Owens**,  
*Spanish Civil War Historian*,  
will speak on the subject of  
*The Catholic Church and the  
Spanish Civil War.*

**Eoin Magennis**  
will speak on the subject of  
*The Left in the Ireland of the 30s.*

**1.00pm**  
The Olive Grove, Woodstock Gardens

**Tree Planting Ceremony**  
Music performed by **The Hatchery Folk**  
Address by:  
**Manus O'Riordan**, Irish Secretary,  
*International Brigade Memorial Trust:*  
*In Defence of Two Republics –  
Kilkenny's International Brigaders*

**4.00pm** Return to Inistioge  
Refreshments at Linahan's Pub  
**Recital by Graiguenamanagh Brass Band**