

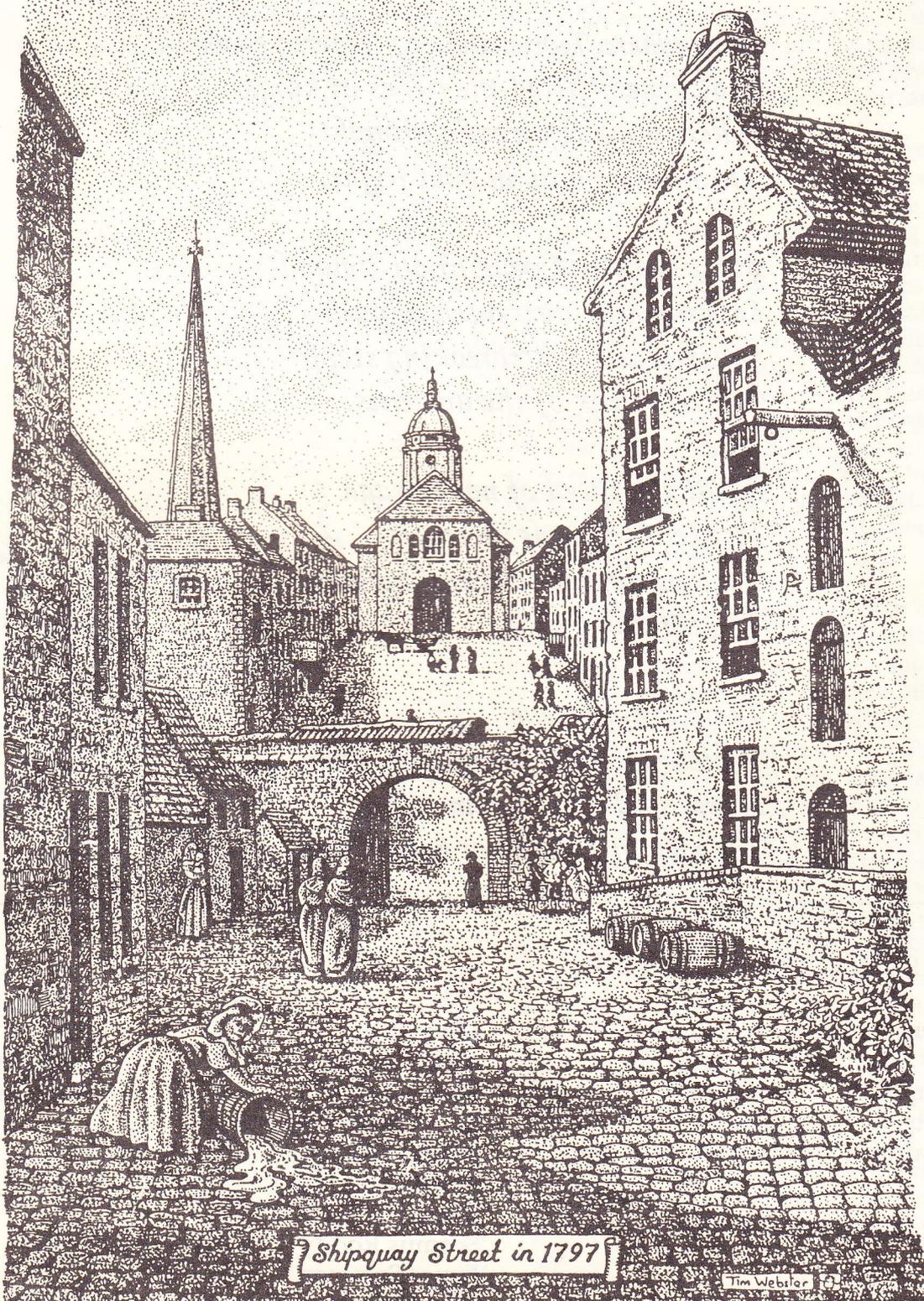
THE FOYLE  
CIVIC TRUST

# REVIEW

The Magazine of the Foyle Civic Trust

Issue 3

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Shipquay Street in 1797

Tim Webster

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## St. Columcille's Farewell

*Pleasant indeed this hill of Howth,  
High over the white-breaking sea,  
Proud hill of the many ships,  
Vine growing, eager, warlike peak.*

*Peak where Fionn and the Fianna stood,  
That once boasted the riches of kings,  
Where brave Dairmuid brought  
Grainne one day, in bold flight.*

*Most beautiful peak of all Ireland  
Lording high over a sea of gulls;  
Leaving it a heartbreaking step,  
Radiant peak of the ancients.*

*Great the speed of my curragh  
Its stern towards Derry,  
Penance for me to travel by sea  
To Scotland's edge.*

*There is a grey eye  
Which will look back upon Erin,  
Never will it see again  
The men of Ireland or her women.*

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### THE FOYLE CIVIC TRUST EXECUTIVE

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John Doherty  
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## "DERRY – A SUCCESSFUL HISTORICAL TOWN?"

Is Derry a successful historical town? Can Derry be a successful town? Certainly it has inherited in topographical and geographical terms a fine situation but it is a situation that was never exploited by the native Irish. Before the latter half of the sixteenth century its isolation made it a monastic centre. Something that it remained for a millennium only disturbed by constant intertribal rows which seemed to be par for the course. It never developed into a town and port of trade and commerce like Galway, Limerick and other southern and eastern seaboard settlements. It drew comparatively little attention from the Vikings and the Normans. The dominant sept of the area are paid no more attention to it than they did to Inch, Burt, Culmore, Enagh, Buncrana or Lifford, places where the remains of mediaeval Ireland are no more than a castle rump. Derry retains little of pre-seventeenth remains - a reconstructed windmill cum dovecote, a sixteenth century parish church in St. Columb's Park, perhaps some stones from an Augustinian abbey incorporated into its seventeenth century plantation walls. One could be forgiven for forming the impression that prior to the onslaught of the Elizabethan times that the population around the monastic settlement of Derry and its hinterland was sparse. There was little demand for a town for trade and commerce.

The seventeenth century town too was slow to grow. Energetic growth did not take place until the first half of the nineteenth century was well advanced. Subsequently there was a steady increase in population and a marked expansion of the town outside the fortified walls. Its port and trade grew but much of this was emigrant movement and disappointingly a good proportion of its population increase in the latter part of the nineteenth century derived from many who could not afford to emigrate. Still Derry improved and grew and had one of its more successful periods in the 1880's. Subsequently it experienced decline and stagnation. Two world wars gave it some respite but the partition of Ireland split its hinterland to the detriment of its possible development.

Since the second world war, like most other towns and cities, it gained many new housing areas, it went hot and cold with various industrial developments. It gradually slipped into a backwater, it suffered from the tardiness of wilful politics. It lost sparkle, it lost vitality, whatever assets it possessed went unexploited and ignored.

The second half of the 1960's saw the possibility of redemption. The 1970's even threw up the

prospect of renewed hope, the dawn of a new era. If this was a spark another spark was ignited which made the survival of the first difficult to burst into a flaming torch. Nevertheless as the town saw the end of the 1980's and sets forth towards the new century there have been decided improvements, though it must also be said, retrograde steps too.

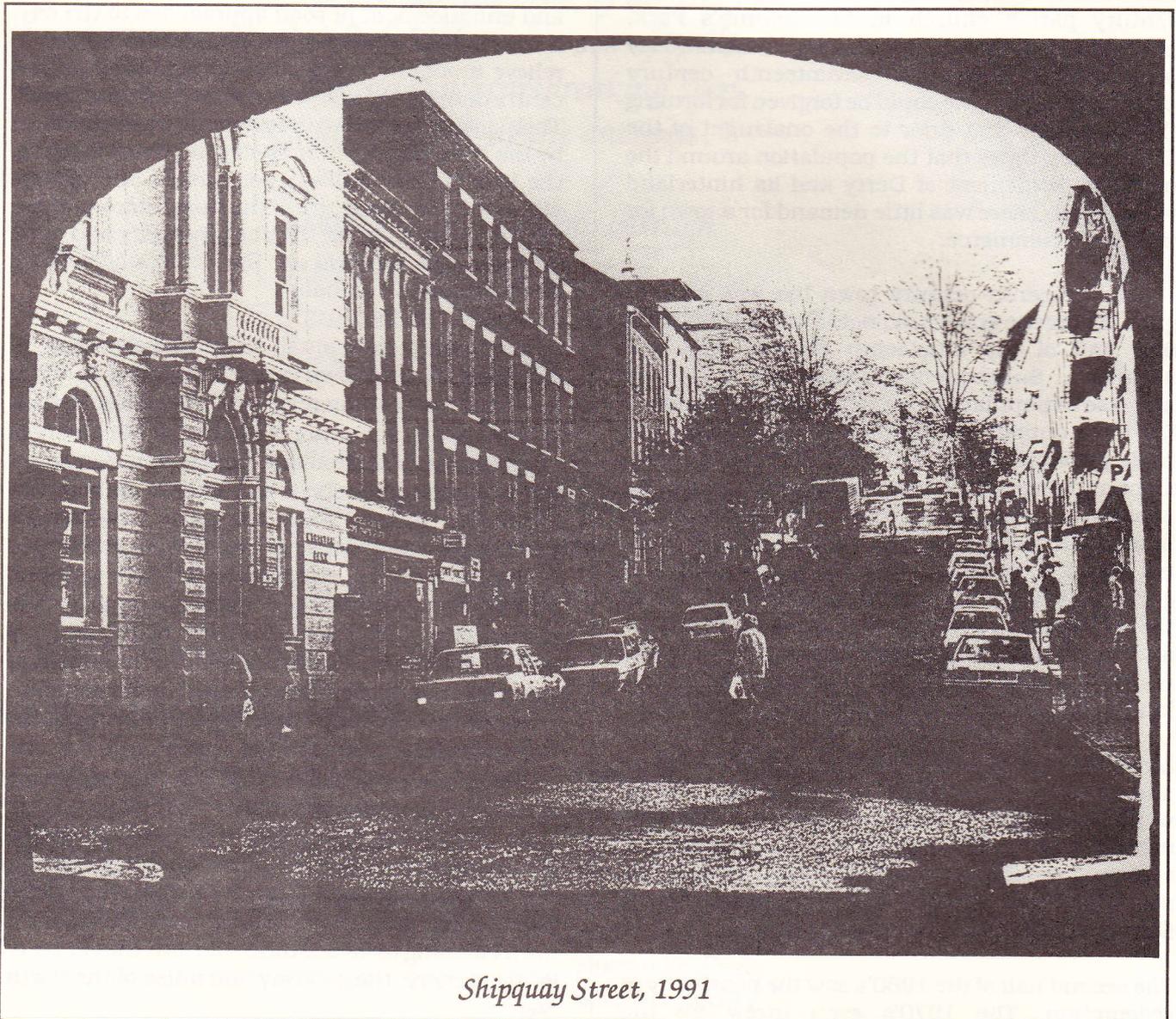
The town has greatly grown in population; its urban area has literally burst out from its boundaries of the 1950's and marched over the adjoining hills. No longer are the lights of the city only visible from the top of the hill but their glow can be discerned from ten miles distance.

The city has gained in those years a major hospital, university campus status, several well established industries, several large peripheral supermarkets, a city centre shopping complex, a new high level bridge, much restructuring of roads and enhancement of road approaches to the city. A diminution of downtown population helped to relieve inner city living conditions but left a town centre denuded of animation after business hours. This lack of downtown movement was reinforced by the removal of light industry to business parks, the loss of three railway companies, the obliteration of Foyle Street, once the busy thoroughfare, the great reduction in the shirt industry and more recently the removal of the harbour facilities downstream to Lisahally.

In a comparatively small town this dispersal of elements leaves a town centre struggling to retain its business, commercial and shopping kernel. With its social structure it weakened the ability of shops to attract customers. Derry has a significant early Christian history, it has an even more recent significant history from the early seventeenth century with its great siege and retains its fortified walls and Jacobean street pattern, a little tattered, and of the georgian and victorian eras it has managed to muster some evidence of its buildings and architecture. Unfortunately the buildings of the georgian and victorian eras are under constant erosion, the old street patterns gradually realigned to make some development easier and the city walls, though partially cared for, are obscured under the panoply of security obscenities. It all adds up to a city struggling to present a pleasing environment for its citizens and an attraction for the visitor. Last year Derry's tourist office dealt with 22,000 enquiries - a poor recompense for a town claiming to be bustling, vibrant, the centre of lovely scenery, the gateway and pulse of the North West.

The Foyle Civic Trust feels that there must be a renewed effort by the citizens of the North West to foster their area for themselves and through that to make it a sought after place for visitors. If Derry people don't help themselves nobody else is going to do it for them. Their efforts must be manifested through all aspects of city life; industry, commerce, business, shopping, education, cultural activities, entertainment, recreation, urban and rural environmental backgrounds, the fostering of historical cultures, the retention of

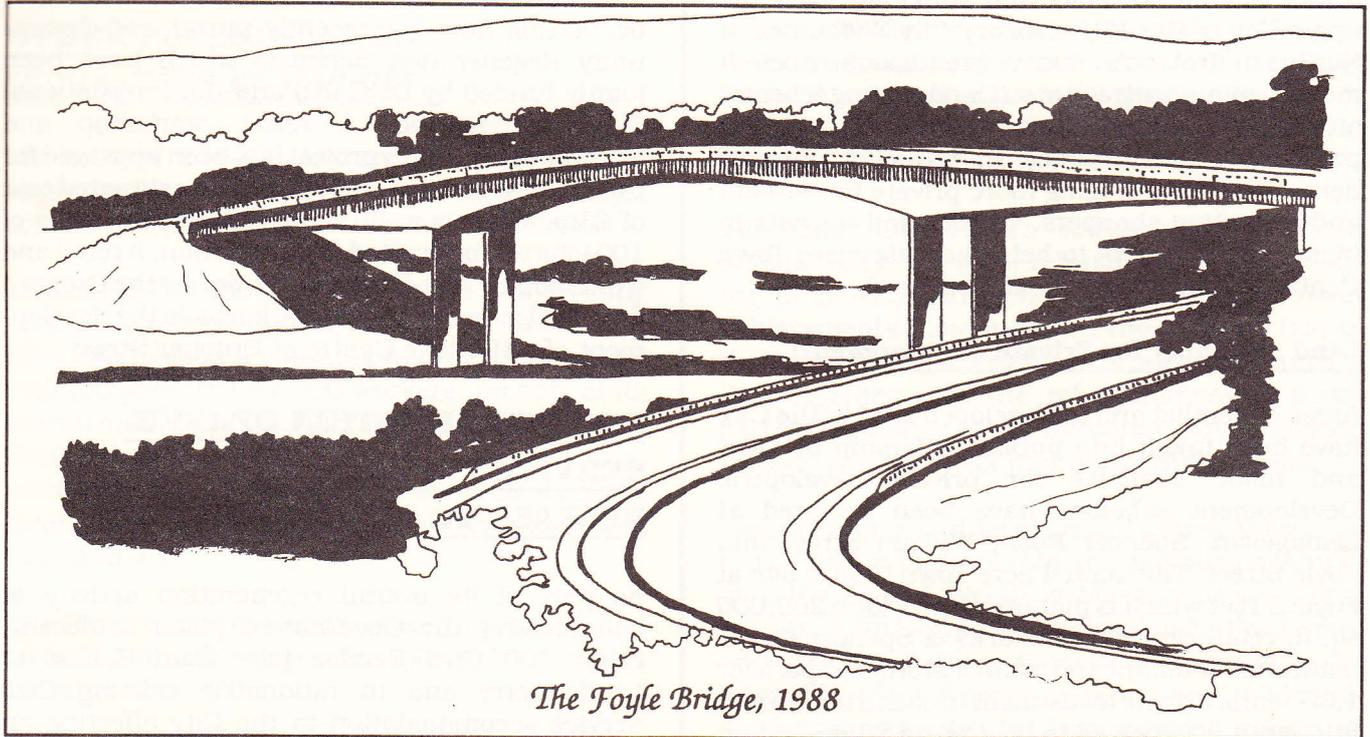
historical buildings, streets and details. A large river flows through the city centre - very little activity takes place on it. Two recent events show what can be done - the visits of the Japanese brig and Francis Drake's Golden Hinde. The city needs to take a hard look at itself, observe other successful towns, what lessons can be learnt. In the world of the European Economic Community it appears that competitiveness is the name of the game. Derry has a long way to go in that race.



*Shipquay Street, 1991*

# URBAN RENEWAL IN LONDONDERRY

*By J. Cowan, Development Officer*



Londonderry is the second largest city in Northern Ireland with a population approaching 100,000 people. The City Centre suffered widespread destruction in the 1970's as a result of the Troubles. At that time, the *Guardian* newspaper recorded that more than 5,200 houses had been damaged or destroyed, 124 business premises, mainly offices and shops, were demolished and 1,809 damaged. The journalist wrote "*The City has been so devastated that the entire centre will have to be rebuilt.*"

Throughout the 80's the emphasis turned towards reconstruction and regeneration.

## PROGRESS

Against a background of physical dereliction, high unemployment and social deprivation, the Government introduced programmes of physical and economic regeneration in the 1980's.

The first elements included:-

- A major shopping centre and office block - the Richmond Centre - was built by the Department of the Environment at a cost of £12m when no private sector investor could be found. This brought back into beneficial use a large City Centre site and created 400 jobs.

- In 1983 two Londonderry Enterprise Zone sites were designated at Campsie on the East Bank and Springtown/Pennyburn on the West Bank.
- In 1984 the new Foyle Bridge and approach roads were completed at a cost of £27m improving access between the West Bank and the large industrial areas at Maydown and the East Bank.

In 1986 the introduction of the Social Need (NI) Order provided the statutory basis for the current DOE mainstream programmes in the City which are presently running at around £4m per annum. There are three main elements to the programmes:-

- (i) Urban Development Grants.
- (ii) Environmental Improvement Projects.
- (iii) Land Assembly for Private Investment.

### Urban Development Grants:

Urban Development Grants of up to 50% are available for approved projects within the Central Business Districts and in the Enterprise Zones in Londonderry. Since its introduction it is estimated that grant-aid of £11.1m has resulted in development to a value of £32.5m.

### **Environmental Improvement Projects:**

A mainstream programme of Town Centre improvement schemes included the pedestrianisation of Waterloo Place and Shipquay Place, the upgrading of the 17th century City Walls, one of Northern Ireland's most prestigious ancient monuments, an attractive soft landscaping schemes on all main approach roads to the City. The programme has assisted in reducing physical dereliction, encouraging more private investment and attracting shoppers, visitors and tourists in increasing numbers to help generate more Town Centre economic activity at local level.

### **Land Assembly for Private Development:**

Areas of derelict and undeveloped land in the City have been taken into public ownership by DOE and made available for private developers. Development schemes have been declared at Lisnagelvin, Spencer Road, William Street and Foyle Street. The main 4 acre Town Centre site at Foyle Street which is planned to provide a 200,000 sq. ft. retail centre with Marks & Spencer as the main anchor tenant and a multi-storey car park for 1,000 cars. Private investment in construction and fitting out is expected to be around £65m and on completion the project is expected to employ around 700 full-time and part-time staff.

### **THE LONDONDERRY INITIATIVE**

Following two conferences on urban regeneration in Londonderry chaired by the Minister, Mr. Richard Needham, in late 1988 and early 1989 the Government introduced a special Londonderry Initiative in addition to mainstream programmes. The Initiative which shadows the format of the Making Belfast Work Initiative, is directed at the neediest areas of the City and is aimed at improving facilities in the disadvantaged communities and helping those who live there to secure jobs. This Community Action Programme which is being taken on an inter-departmental basis will provide resources of £18m over 6 years and aims to:-

- increase access to information about opportunities in the labour market and to job search activities
- support initiatives to increase skills levels and motivation to seek employment
- support image enhancement and the provision of infrastructure to encourage private investment
- develop health education programmes
- increase education provision and facilities
- encourage community involvement

- assist disadvantaged groups such as young offenders
- improve the built and physical environment.

The disadvantaged communities are also benefitting from the recently introduced Community Regeneration Schemes which have been jointly funded by DOE (NI) and the International Fund for Ireland. A retail, workshop and community facilities project has been approved for the Shantallow area of the City at an estimated cost of £3m. Work is well under way and upwards of 100 jobs will be created on completion. A retail and workshop project of around £2.5m for the Creggan area is also under consideration as is the development of a Heritage Centre at Butcher Street.

### **DECENTRALISATION OF CIVIL SERVICE POSTS FROM BELFAST TO LONDONDERRY**

As part of its overall regeneration activity in Londonderry the Government plans to decentralise 300 Civil Service jobs from Belfast to Londonderry and to rationalise existing Civil Service accommodation in the City affecting an additional 200 staff. This had generated the need for two new office blocks to provide around 120,000 sq. ft. of additional office space. The combined effects of a total 500 Civil Service jobs near the City Centre together with the new construction work estimated at between £8m and £10m will make a further significant contribution to physical and economic regeneration of the Town Centre.

### **PROMOTIONAL STRATEGY FOR LONDONDERRY**

Derry City Council in partnership with the Department of the Environment has embarked on a promotional drive to improve the City's image. This strategy has entailed the selection and appointment of a public relations firm, the creation of a new corporate image and the preparation of a promotional video to spearhead media advertising.

The promotional strategy for the City has culminated in a Festival of International Events this year, now known as IMPACT '92 - INTERNATIONAL MEETING PLACE FOR THE APPRECIATION OF CULTURAL TRADITIONS. This Festival has been part-funded through DOE's Londonderry Initiative. Throughout 1992 the City will host an ambitious programme of large scale national and international conferences and sporting, musical and cultural events.

IMPACT '92 has the potential to attract thousands of visitors, give a major boost to the local economy and show the more positive aspects of life in the City.

### **OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR INITIATIVES IN THE CITY**

The work of other Government Departments and statutory boards is also making a major contribution to the overall regeneration drive.

The Industrial Development Board has recently secured investment from Fruit of the Loom who have established a spinning mill in Londonderry with job potential for 300 workers. As part of its overall initiative in the City IDB has established a North West Marketing Group, produced a promotional video and is closely involved with the local private sector in establishing a new Business Park and a Technology Park.

The Department of Health & Social Services had located some 200 back office jobs at Lisahally on the edge of the City.

The Londonderry Enterprise Zone continued to pursue a policy aimed at establishing Campsie, Pennyburn/Springtown as centres of industry and employment. a total of 2,882 people are now employed in the Zone occupying some 183 establishments. Of the 183 establishments, 40% are involved in manufacturing with 60% in distribution and services.

Derry City Council is developing the facilities of the Regional Airport at Eglinton and a new access road and passenger facilities costing approximately £1.3m are being assisted by EC funds.

The Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners are re-locating the Port downstream and will promote the area as a deep water port capable of handling large vessels and bulk cargo. A construction programme is under way at Lisahally costing more than £12m and has secured an ERDF grant of £9m.

Magee College has also expanded and has carried out an £8m expansion programme. The College is establishing a reputation in the IT field and is fostering closer links with industry.

In the housing field, a total of 4,040 new private houses have been constructed since 1981. During the same period Northern Ireland Housing

Executive has provided 2,370 new public authority houses.

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

A distinctive feature of the regeneration of Londonderry has been the close involvement of Derry City Council and local community groups all of whom working alongside statutory agencies to develop the City, create jobs and increase prosperity.

The Inner City Trust's contribution has been substantial in terms of rebuilding and refurbishing properties within the Walled City. Its main achievements have included the construction of the Craft Village, a Siege Centre and the O'Doherty Fort together with the refurbishment of many derelict buildings in the Shipquay Street, Bishop Street, London Street and Pump Street areas.

Finally, a group of local businessmen known as Derry Boston Ventures Ltd. created business links with the City of Biston in Massachusetts. Local MP, Mr. John Hume, works closely with this Group and with IDB to try to increase investment in the North West by US companies and also to identify markets in America for locally based groups. A number of local companies now export to America on a regular basis and several joint venture projects are presently being researched.

# THE FOUNTAIN 1992: A SUITABLE CASE FOR TREATMENT

*By Tony Crowe, Chairman, Diamond Project Trust, Committee Member, Foyle Civic Trust*

*" . . . . And oh! were the tributes of Alba mine,  
From shore unto centre, from centre to sea,  
The site of one home in the midst of fair Derry,  
Were dearer to me . . . ."*

These lofty sentiments, attributed to Derry's most famous resident to date, echo down the centuries and provoke a whimsical reflection on precisely where Columba might find a site for his home, 1,500 years after he declared an interest in the property market. The meagre stipend of a humble monk would necessitate severe limitations on his scope and he would, indeed, be compelled to remain in the very "midst" of the town, very close to the scene of his earliest triumphs. In recognition of his imagined dilemma and the very real ones of his 20th century "disciples", some good people of the renowned Fountain area resolved just two years ago to put their houses in order.

The Diamond Project Trust was established to regenerate this area - the longest established community outside the Walls, a small Protestant enclave in a city that is predominantly Roman Catholic. Until recently a large mural on a gable wall at the entry to the estate declared the message "*Londonderry - Still Under Siege*", which sums up the sentiments of the Fountain people and identifies a major difficulty for the Trust to address. The initial aims of the Project are to revitalise the morale of this old community, with its very evident traditions and history, and to upgrade and conserve the environment as part of the process of regeneration.

The Fountain, more than any other working-class area of the city, has suffered from the ill-effects of the dreadful "Shoebox Planning" that featured with such devastating effect in the 60's and 70's. On reflection it must be acknowledged that the

whole community has suffered, when it is considered that these shoebox blots on the landscape obliterate the views of the Walls and the Cathedral. While most of the West Bank underwent radical environmental and social surgery, orchestrated by various agencies since the advent of "The Troubles" in 1969, the Fountain, in contrast, has stagnated and lost much of its relevance for the city. In recognition of this fact and mindful of the serious worries of community and clerical leaders, the Trust lobbied the multitude of Government departments and eventually reaped success in the form of a detailed feasibility study, under the directorship of Belfast-based Building Design Partnership and Paris based "Avec Plus".

As the oldest and most significant remaining Protestant/Unionist neighbourhood on the West Bank, the Trust's decision to shape its own destiny has met with much encouragement from all parts of the city and this fact has been reflected in the eventual submissions for regeneration, which were presented, before Christmas 1991, by Richard Needham. The Trust has acquired permanent office premises in the heart of the area and is currently embroiled in the bureaucratic process of acquiring funding. There has been considerable progress with the proposals to upgrade educational, environmental and social provision and there is an air of optimism afoot.

There is also general recognition of the fact that there is very little time for the Trust's work to bear fruit. The movement of population "across the bridge" has been arrested temporarily; it can only be completely rectified if the expectations of the Trust are realised. It is hoped by all concerned that this will be a springboard for action so that the Fountain can grow as a vibrant, attractive community area within the Maiden City.

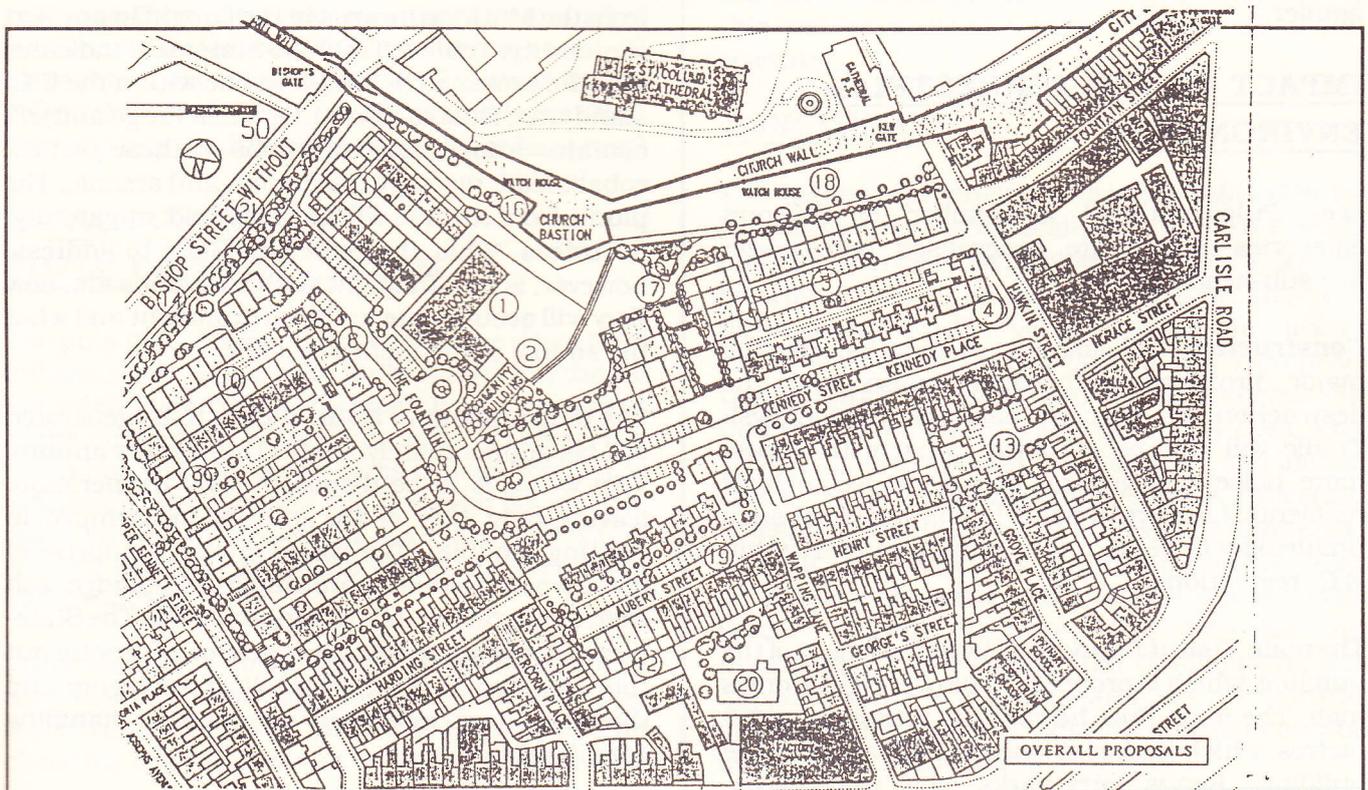
## THE REGENERATION OF THE FOUNTAIN *Building Design Partnership and Avec\* for the Department of the Environment*



## REGENERATION STRATEGY AND PROPOSALS

### Legend to be read with Proposal Drawing

1. New 5-classroom primary school at core of site located on most level area of site with playground adjacent to Church Bastion (subject to detailed design).
2. Community facility at core of site associated with new school building.
3. New 2-storey NIHE houses with car parking on lower side and front gardens to Church Wall.
4. Replacement NIHE houses providing frontage to Hawkin Street and forming visual enclosure to parking.
5. New NIHE 2-storey houses with frontage and parking to Kennedy Street. Houses stepping up steep grade change, providing view to Cathedral spire.
6. New NIHE 2-storey houses replacing 2 units demolished in Kennedy Street to open vista to Cathedral spire.
7. New 2-storey NIHE houses providing new frontage to Wapping Lane and enclosure to landscaped court on lower side of Kennedy Street.
8. New NIHE 2-storey houses fronting the Fountain and enclosing a reduced car parking area.
9. New infill single-storey fronting Upper Bennett Street with rear access to existing walkway system.
10. New replacement single-storey OPD houses fronting Bishop Street and linked into existing walkway.
11. Replacement single-storey sheltered dwellings or OPD houses forming enclosure to existing 2-storey houses and linked to existing walkway system.
12. New private sector 2-storey houses on vacant site completing Aubery Street frontage.
13. Possible infill housing with commercial scheme for Whitehall site with internal landscaped parking court. Houses in Hawkin Street to relate in scale and materials to existing buildings.
14. Existing Bishop Street landscaping enhanced with new barrier fencing. Existing walkway improved to incorporate jail tower.
15. Existing boundary walkway enhanced with new planting to "edge" of site at rear of Harding Street houses.
16. Existing walkway adjacent to Walls strengthened by new planting.
17. Severe level changes resolved through landscaped viewing point and stepped pedestrian route.
18. Existing open space against Church Wall to be maintained and enclosure strengthened by new walkway planting.
19. Parking bays in Aubery Street reduced to required length to provide landscaped strip adjacent to NIHE houses. New tree planting at end of street to close vista.
20. Vacant land at rear of factory identified as opportunity site for future study.
21. Allowance to be made for future linkage of the Fountain and Bishop Street.



# THE LEES WOOD PULP MILL DEVELOPMENT: AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION?

*By Sean Gallagher and John J. Doherty*

At the beginning of November 1991 a planning application for the construction of a Wood Pulp Mill was published. Accompanying it was an Environmental Statement which detailed a £90 million construction cost and an economic life of 22 years. What follows is a summary of the 350 page Statement which can be viewed in its entirety by appointment with the Planning Office or The Foyle Civic Trust.

## SITE

Lees Group examined a number of sites, finally settling on agricultural region at Maydown. The site is presently two small farms bounded to the north by Temple Road and Haw Road; to the northwest by the Strathfoyle Housing Estate; to the south by the R.U.C. complex; and to the southeast by the Maydown Road and Industrial Estate. This is within the Foyle Estuary region, a gently undulating land that rises to about 40 metres above sea level. The River Faughan lies to the south and southeast, whilst to the west and northwest are both the River and Lough Foyle. Also to the southeast can be found the two Enagh Loughs. Geological conditions of the area inhibit the creation of substantial drainage on the site, and underlying the south and southeast is a gravel aquifer.

## IMPACT ON THE TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENT

Lees Pulp outlined a number of different categories, which are generalised here under five sub-headings.

**Construction** will last for 18 months, causing major problems with dust, noise and the destruction of natural habitats (Hedgerows). Traffic will also be a problem, what with fumes, more noise and general inconvenience to local residents. Lees are at pains to point out that such problems will be kept to a minimum and within E.C. regulations.

The main **Visual Impact** will be in the height of the building, which is proposed to be over eight storeys high. The main flue, however, is measured at 60 metres, which is almost twice as high again as the buildings. Roads, lorry parks, silos, wood yards,

colling towers, overhead conveyors, and flues from both the boiler house and the treatment plant will be added visual damage. Lees say that only a third of the site will be developed, whilst the rest will be landscaped or left over to arable farming until such a time as the mill is ready to expand.

There are **Operational Hazards** that can impact on the terrestrial environment that strict controls must be exercised over in order to minimalise the risk. For example, in hot, dry weather wood-chip piles of a greater volume than 30,000 cubic metres can self-ignite. Lees intend to store their chip in piles less than 8,000 cubic metres. Such risks are also present in the flues, but Lees claim state of the art technology will minimalise it, though they do not go into detail. Chemicals on site can also prove to be hazardous. Hydrogen peroxide, for example, can explode if stored wrongly. Lees, however, maintain that their controls will eliminate these dangers.

**Air Purity** will be effected by principle emissions from the boiler and flash drier and other points. The three major pollutants will be sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide, and because of the prevailing southwesterly winds, the greatest concentration of pollution should occur downwind from the Mill (northwards to the Lough) in any sort of quantity. Table 8.3.3 of the Statement indicates that the projected pollution will be within the E.C. standards. Dust is also a major discharge and will contain various concentrations of these metals: cobalt, lead, mercury, cadmium, and arsenic. The plume from the flue will be white and, apparently, odourless. What the Statement fails to address, however, is how frequent such emissions are, how they will accumulate in the environment and what the source of the metals will be?

The total amount of **Solid Waste** to be generated will be, approximately, 60,000 tonnes per annum. This waste is to be disposed of by incineration, leaving only 11% of the total to be dumped in existing landfills. The waste should comprise of bark, wood residual, fibre sludge, bio-sludge, ash from incineration and packing material. The Statement is very vague when it endeavours to point out that this not in the Special Waste category and therefore does not need any special handling conditions.

## IMPACT ON THE FRESHWATER ENVIRONMENT

The Department of the Environment (NI) classifies the existing water quality of the River Faughan and the two Enagh Loughs as "good". The pulp mill will impact on these two systems in three ways.

**During Construction**, as a result of paving, asphaltting, concreting and other large earth movements, the drainage and natural run-off systems of the area will be changed completely. The new run-off will also carry fine solids, cement, diesel and sewage from the food and sanitary facilities. These can only have an adverse effect, but the Statement says that measures will be taken to avoid contamination, though what these measures are it declines to say.

The resurfacing of the site will effect **Drainage and surface run-off**. The wood yard should be an asphalted three hectares in which artificial drainage and run-off has to be constructed in such a way as to avoid the chip polluting the ground water and aquifer. The Statement says such precautions that can be taken will be, and because the wood will come from forestry sites it will be free of pesticides and fungicides. The remaining run-off from the roads etc., will not be as stringently guarded, and will discharge into the Faughan. In heavy rain the storm-water run-off will bypass all the safety systems.

The **Water Supply** for the mill will be 2 million gallons of treated water per day and all of it will be extracted from the Faughan over a 12-18 hour period via existing mains. The plant will be able to store half of this. The Water Service say that they can supply this, but can the River Faughan?

## IMPACT ON THE FOYLE ESTUARY SYSTEM

The pulp mill effluent should only have a localised influence around the point of discharge, and should not extend upstream of Culmore Point or seaward of the Muff Light. Within this zone, however, the fauna has already shown signs of pollution before any development on the Mill has even begun. The main concerns associated with the release of effluent from the Pulp Mill would fall under five sub-headings.

There should be no **Direct Toxic Effects** beyond the vicinity of the outfall if the effluent is diluted by more than a factor of 12.5. But to disperse the chelating agent known as DTPA, which can hold

metals such as aluminium, lead, cadmium, copper, nickel and zinc in a relatively non-toxic solution, a dilution factor of 15 is needed. By exposing DTPA to ultra-violet or infra-red light, however, it will degrade and release the metals. Ammonical nitrogen would only need a factor of 5, but for both nitrogen and phosphorous it would have to be as high as 25 to reduce toxic effects.

An increased **Oxygen Demand** from pollution effects could severely impair the water quality of the Foyle Estuary. Lees suggest that their effluent plume will stay above the saltwater wedge in the system in which the migratory fish can be found. But their Statement reveals that there will be a build up of the Chemical Oxygen Demand which indicates an accumulation of chemicals.

The **Suspended Solids** in the effluent will consist primarily of bacteria and wood fibre. The Foyle sediments already have a high organic matter and the extra input will change the biological and chemical regimes of the area. It could act as a fertilizer.

The **Discolouration** caused by the brownish effluent could be visibly negated by sufficient dilution. There is some concern that the discoloured effluent will kill the phytoplankton and zooplankton in the vicinity of the outfall. The Statement does insist that the photoplankton in the entire Estuary will suffer no effect.

The **pH** of the effluent is acidic, but it is hoped that this will be negated by the alkaline pH of the seawater.

## CONCLUSION

The method of producing pulp in this mill will be by Chemi-Thermo-Mechanical-Pulp, or C.T.M.P. Such mills are a very new technology, intended as a more environmentally friendly method than the very dirty traditional mills. As yet, however, there are no C.T.M.P. mills in production in the European Community, so they can be considered as unproven. This Statement produced by Lees, long as it is, failed to address this question, and indeed fails to raise or answer other serious concerns. Questions that it does ask are vaguely answered, if at all. The Statement sometimes seems to be deliberately changing measurement scales on the reader, making it quite misleading for the uninitiated. The systems this development will impact upon are complex and like all natural systems one can never predict the consequences of one's actions when tampering with it.

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# THE THREAT TO THE FOYLE

*By Olly McGilloway*

I start at the beginning, where tiny trickles gather in uplands and run down to meet together and form the river and lough. The threat to the nature of the Foyle has been going on for many years. The valley of the Foyle is at risk. It receives water from a thousand sources and, because of the tides, haltingly delivers this water to the sea. Some of the received water is polluted.

## ***Trickle to Broadmouth***

Foyle water comes from mountain slopes, bogland, sheskins or marshy ground, and lakes. It runs down countless drains into feed-in streams and tributary rivers. All the time, more water and carried particles, effluents or all sorts, join the substantial water already in the valley of the Foyle. The valley of the Foyle can only take so much. It's not very wide and it's not very deep. Sometimes floodwater overflows banks or backs up gratings and drowns nearby streets; and the water it keeps within its banks is heightened and lowered, and moved backwards and forwards, stirred twice daily by the tide, promoting physical changes to the bed and the banks and allowing substances to be dissolved to change the essence of the water.

## ***Pollution of Source Waters***

Along upland streams of Derry, Donegal and Tyrone - in seemingly remote and innocent places - I've seen many changes which affect the Foyle: developments which occur close to water edges; housing estates with their soap suds, detergents, drowned pups, compost heaps, and sewage disposal works; sand and gravel pits; deep litters; pig farms; brae-fields burned through silage effluent; rubbish tips; machine harvested peat; conifer plantings. These kinds of development, necessary many will argue, have seriously harmed - even killed - local wildlife.

## ***Physical Changes***

To some extent, chemical harm to any waterway will depend on the natural characteristics of that stream or river; the amount of water, the flow of water, the slope, the bedrock, and whether the noxious materials enter the water during winter or summer - when wildlife is more or less present. Yet, no matter the conditions, any interference by man in terms of allowing harmful substances into streams and rivers, and by altering their natural physical characteristics, will cause harm locally and eventually affect the Foyle.

## ***Trickle to Broadmouth - Harm to Aquatic Life***

Wildlife loss, along these streams to the Foyle, happens in a number of ways: dredging and draining; changing the beds of streams and altering the banks; creating sterile drains which dry up natural burns. If a stream or river has been altered to protect water tables for farmers, fish lies and spawning redds may disappear. Wetlands drained and farmed will bring fertilizers into streams. The removal of natural hurries and pools, boulders, gravel, trees and bushes damages stream life. Very often natural features are destroyed or removed and replaced with buildings and other man-made structures which release harmful substances. Roadways alongside rivers allow surface washings to hurry into the rivers. All these changes and developments, at source, pose a threat to the Foyle.

## ***Pollution, Oxygen Content, and Water Abstraction***

Pollution happens in many ways, and some ways are more harmful than others. As a rule, most pollution derives from human activities or management of property: building, manufactures, agriculture, housing.

The pollutants most harmful to waterlife are those which use up the oxygen dissolved in water. Those pollutants which steal dissolved oxygen are mostly organic such as slurry, sewage, and factory food waste. It's important to know that the amount of oxygen which can dissolve in water decreases as the water grows warmer. Less oxygen is available in river and lough water during the summer: when farming is at its busiest, and when we have least rainfall.

Rivers depend on rainfall, and take their oxygen from the atmosphere. At any time, a litre of river water will hold only about a twentieth of the amount of oxygen in a litre of air, and the dissolving process is very slow. To abstract river water, especially during a dry summer, and at the same time continue releasing noxious and oxygen using substances into the river, will certainly kill aquatic life.

When slurry or similar enters water, micro-organisms in the water break down the slurry, using up oxygen as they feed. Given plenty of

organic waste to feed on, the micro-organisms multiply, they multiply rapidly, and exhaust most of the oxygen. When the water is oxygen depleted, other micro-organisms become busy and produce hydrogen sulphide gas. At the edge of a pond, or in sluggish water, the absence of life, the sight of rising bubbles and a 'rotten egg' smell, indicate the deadly presence of hydrogen sulphide gas.

Certain levels of other related substances will poison water-dwelling creatures. Even small amounts of these discharges will hinder the rate of growth of fish and impair their reproductive processes. Many of these substances arrive in the river from industrial plants, the more common substances being cyanides, phenols; and biocides from textile plants, or agriculture - sheep dips, for example.

Preservatives used in forestry and the building trade are harmful. Car washes, soaps from houses, and sewage - all containing ammonia - will kill fish and other aquatic life. There are many other complex chemical substances arriving in our rivers; their effects are not fully known.

### **Changes in pH**

Another problem centres on changing the acid/alkaline nature of water. This will kill certain kinds of micro-organism, plant life, insects and crustaceans; and fishes and other feeders will suffer. Lowered pH levels (higher than usual acidic levels) can result from conifer planting and heavy peat abstraction.

### **Sand and Gravel Washings**

Sediment from sand and gravel works, and shifting gravel will negatively affect the survival of aquatic life - smother ova in redds, and deprive shellfish on beds - and impede and alter waterflow.

### **Peat Harvesting**

Harvesting turf has been a way of life in this country. People have been sensibly cutting turf for a very long time. However, nowadays, because of our disappearing 'raised' and 'blanket' bogs, the removal of peat can be a sensitive issue. Protecting bogland apart, machine harvesting of peat seriously affects upland areas, tiny streams, rivers, endangers wildlife, and poses a threat to the bed and water of the river Foyle.

The first obvious problem concerns upland drainage, and destruction of earth and habitats. Apart from the unsightly appearance of countless drains marring the high ground, and the ground left bare and lifeless, whether the machine lifts and

compresses peat into a form for burning or mills it into a powder for gardeners to use, both activities cause more peaty water and peaty soil to run into our streams. Because of modern harvesting, the moorland will be left without peat, and sphagnum mosses, the stuff of more peat. The moorland, once sponge-like and soaked with water, is becoming dry, and falling rain runs off in 'spouts'. The age-old relationships between bogland and river have suddenly changed and flash floods are very quickly running to the Foyle. Without the steady drainage from saturated peatland, spates are shortlived. For two days, foam-flecked, porter coloured rivers run too high and 'grumbly', then of a sudden - without a chance to fine down - the riers' levels fall.

Because of damage to the surface of moorland, soils and their minerals - carried in the high rushing waters, which flood over banks - cause the chemical nature of the river water to become acidic, and peaty materials to eventually settle as silt. Already mentioned, water more acidic than usual destroys established wildlife relationships. Also, silt smothers ova in redds; it affects hatching fish, and juvenile fish have a poorer growth rate in a peaty environment. As well, peat deposits cause silt banks and impede water flow.

Bearing in mind that, in and from its beginning streams and tributaries and directly from its own banks, other nuisances are already threatening the bed and waters and wildlife (especially salmon and sea trout) of the Foyle, more peaty substances are unwelcome.

### **About Foyle Salmon**

We are all familiar with the history of the Foyle, and the management of its Fishery. We know that it was one of the leading salmon fisheries in Europe but that salmon stocks have seriously declined during the past fifty years. We know that exploitation of Atlantic salmon in the feeding grounds off Greenland is blameworthy; then, at home, that miles of mono-filament nets in waters around the northwest coastline have prevented salmon returning to parent rivers; grey seals catch salmon, but seals have always caught salmon; overnetting and poaching in the Foyle itself have reduced numbers of salmon; the disease Ulcerative Dermal Necrosis (UDN) destroyed countless salmon; poaching in the Foyle's tributaries is an ongoing problem; physical changes, damaged redd sites, altered river beds and banks and water flow, breeding streams running dry or being choked by sand and peat sediment, and natural predators are, separate and together, influences which leave us with the frightening fact that we are lucky to get 2 returning salmon from 5,000 eggs.

## About Foyle Sea Trout

Complicating the salmon dilemma we now find decreasing numbers of sea trout returning to parent streams. Unlike salmon, trout do not migrate far out to sea. Problems within the reach of the lough, estuary, river, spawning streams, are the likely offenders. In other places, sea lice infestation from finfish farms (not shellfish farms) is held responsible for poor returns of sea trout. We don't have finfish farms in the Foyle. And, for conservation reasons, we might be better off without them. Even so, researchers argue that Irish sea trout declines have been observed since the turn of the century, long before the appearance of 'farms'; and heavy lice infestations have been reported in areas where there are no salmon farms. Researchers recommend close monitoring and control of possible physical and chemical influences in parent streams and rivers. Before blaming fish farms, we should test these recommendations.

## Not a Cess Pool

The Foyle is not a cess pool. As rivers go, it is relatively clean and it feeds and shelters much wildlife. It successfully offers a marvellous over-wintering sanctuary for thousands of waders and wildfowl from cold, faraway places. And many fishes, other aquatic creatures, other birds, wild mammals, and plants easily survive and flourish along its length. Yet, the Foyle is at risk and precautionary measures are necessary. These measures should include:-

*proper ongoing monitoring of biological life in tributary waters and in the Foyle water itself, to indicate water quality; use of the most up-to-date methods of measuring pollution; careful and firm controls of water abstraction, sand and gravel washings, methods and amounts of peat abstraction, extent and location of conifer planting . . .*

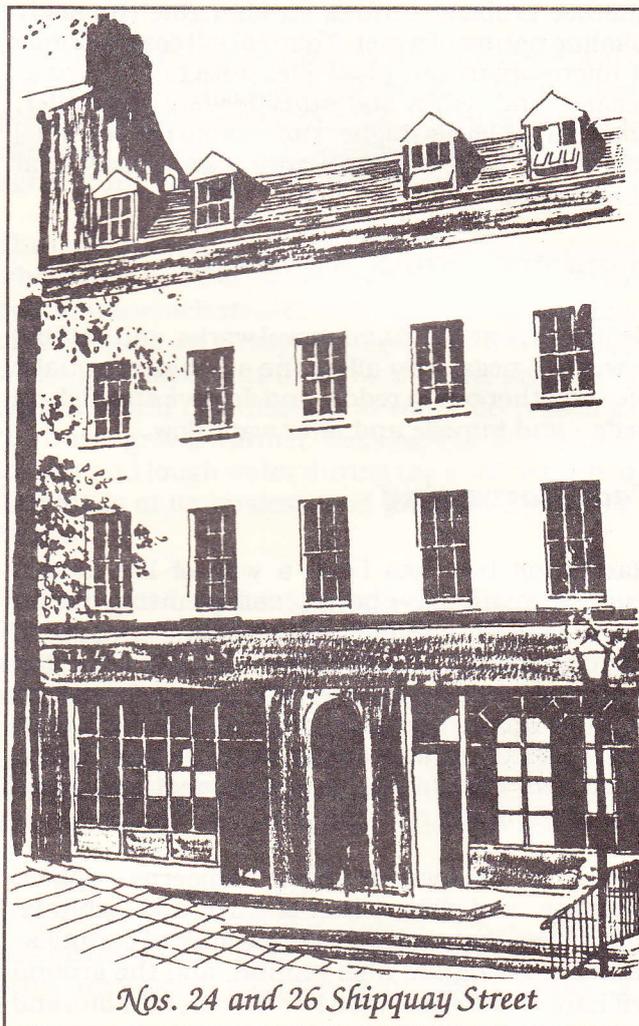
*Any other development which may further change the physical nature of the valley of the Foyle, or the chemical nature of Foyle water, should not be allowed to happen without informed public consent.*

## SHOPPING IN THE WALLED CITY: A BRIEF SURVEY

*By John J. Doherty and Sean Gallagher*

A city's central business district is its heart, and a healthy city centre reflects a healthy city. Derry's main shopping streets are situated within the old city's walls. This centre has undergone extensive regeneration within the last five years. The pedestrianisation scheme, new street furniture, the Richmond Centre and the Craft Village have all added to the centre's appeal to shoppers. This is against the U.K. trend, because the findings of The Civic Trust's "Audit of the Environment" show that in towns an alarming number of shops are closing as high streets face out-of-town competition. There is also a decrease in the variety of shops available in towns.

**Shipquay Street** is the nerve centre of the town, and is dominated at the top by the Richmond Centre, a recent retail mall which has helped to pull shoppers back into the centre. The street itself is unique in character due to its steep gradient, and this has resulted in many stepped entrances to premises. It has a number of Listed Buildings, mostly of the financial institutions, but some, such as Nos. 6, 8 and 33, are fine examples of the old character of the street that are currently retail and office units. The street has a good variety of shops. There are a number of very popular public houses, nightclubs and restaurants, as well as bookstores, flower shops, electrical and clothing stores. The variety and character of this street is in keeping with that of the city centre as a whole.



*Nos. 24 and 26 Shipquay Street*

**Ferryquay Street** is the other main street in the Walled City, and is also dominated by the Richmond Centre at the Diamond end. The anchor tenants in the Richmond Centre are Dunnes and Boots, both just inside the Ferryquay Street entrance, and others include electrical, confectionery, drapery and musical stores in a variety that is expected of such places. The bottom end of Ferryquay Street is taken up by the Woolworths store, a national retail chain that offers a great deal of its usual services on an open floor plan. Opposite these is a three storey terrace, most of which have retail units on the ground floors. There is a chemist, jewellers and a travel agent, with the Diamond end taken up by the Austin's store which offers the shopper everything from clothing to lead crystal decanters.

The return of shoppers to these two streets has been of direct benefit to those streets that intersect with them. **Bank Place** faces the East Wall from Shipquay Street to the Water Bastion corner. Undergoing renovation, this street is mainly occupied by public houses and social clubs. Across Shipquay Street, also facing the wall to Magazine Gate, is **Union Hall Place**, a pedestrianised area with a number of speciality shops such as a health food shop and a cobbler. The walls give this street an enclosed feeling which has encouraged buskers and street traders, which gives the area a more lively feeling.

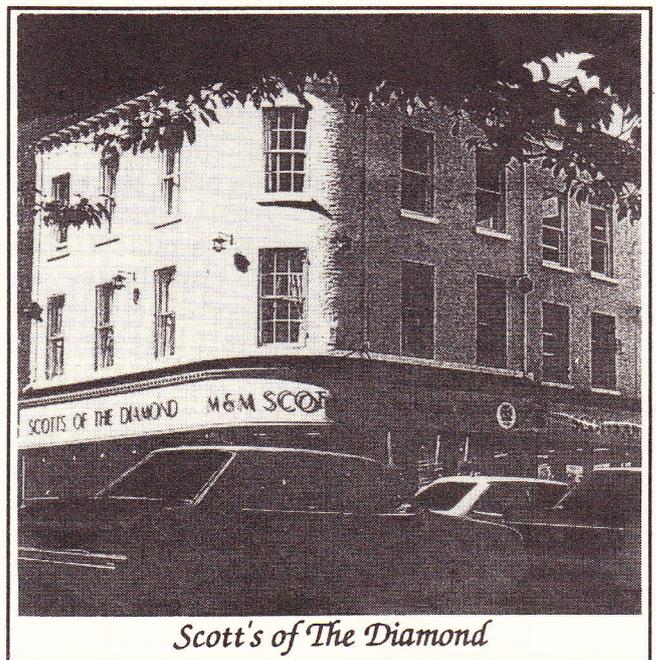
**Castle Street** is only recently benefitting from retail units, traditionally more devoted to business premises such as solicitors and accountants. A public house at one end brings people into the street, and now that some shops have opened, including an upmarket clothing store, it is now adapting. **Lower Magazine Street**, at the other end of Castle Street from Shipquay Street, was traditionally a back street, away from the hustle and bustle of the town. It has recently undergone a dramatic regeneration, with a new pedestrian scheme and the proximity of the Craft Village, and more retail units have opened up here. Though most units are of a bargain store variety, there are signs that other types of shop are willing to move into the street. A new youth hostel being built at the top of the street will bring more life into it and encourage businesses to relocate into here.

**Pump Street**, coming off Ferryquay Street, is dominated by large terraced houses, some used for residential purposes, others for offices and the Convent of Mercy. The street itself is a prime example of the ongoing regeneration, and is presently uninviting because of the present construction work. When this work is finished, however, it will leave the street looking quite enticing and actually begin to bring shoppers back into that area of the town, and it is likely that this

will mean that shops such as the Acorn Cafe, a winner of the Foyle Civic Trust's shopfronts competition due to its sympathetically designed facade, will provide further variety and atmosphere.

**London Street** provides the main access to the historic St. Columb's Cathedral, and benefits from tourists going up there to visit. It has undergone some successful regeneration, and retail units have opened where traditionally there were none. Some of the units are for assorted agencies, such as the "Churches Voluntary Work and Management Agency" and "Concern", but the Bishop Street bookshop "Bookworm" is one of many new retail units opening here. It is a small street that could quite easily have become a backstreet, but whilst it promotes the ambience of a backstreet it retains the commercial viability of a main street. It shows much promise since it was first highlighted in European Architectural Heritage Year 1975.

**Bishop Street Within** has a dividing line that runs from the corner with London Street to the corner with Society Street. Above this divide to the Gate are some of the finest buildings Derry has to offer, whilst below this are retail units that do little to complement the more illustrious end. "Pound-stretcher" and "Xtravision" are quite gaudy in their displays, but the former offers bargain shopping just next to the main areas. Speciality shops, however, such as "Henderson's Pianos", are more in keeping with the street's character, and "Bookworm" and "Impact" attempt to follow suit.



*Scott's of The Diamond*

**The Diamond** is the heart of the Walled City, and therefore the heart of Derry, but it is dominated by three shops - the Richmond Centre, Austin's and M. & M. Scotts. Scotts was originally built in 1882,

but has undergone extensive renovations that have retained much of the original floor plans in the interior. Scotts provide a retail corollary to Austins. Other features in this area include a building society in one of the Walled City's ugliest buildings, insurance offices and clothing stores.

Whilst this survey has dealt primarily with the Walled City, it must be stressed that Carlisle Road, Strand Road, Foyle Street, Waterloo Street and Waterloo Place are all integral to the city shoppers. New developments such as Foyle Side and the Youth Hostel, and the opening of the O'Doherty Fort should help to generate more interest in the City Centre that the Craft Village is already encouraging. The Village has brought locals and visitors alike back into the City Centre, which has only been of benefit to shopping.

One can only guess at the effect Impact '92 will have. Derry is being presented to the world as a city worth coming to visit and shop in, which puts the onus on the shop owners to present a city centre which can rival almost anywhere. As this brief survey shows, there have been some successes in that direction but the present lack of national and international chains has led to a stalemate in competitiveness. It is up to Derry to produce an image that is not only attractive to shoppers, but such major investors.



No. 63A Great James Street  
from original sketch by its architect,  
Daniel Conroy

## SCULPTURE IN DERRY

By J. J. Tracey

Of fascinating interest in a building's facade is its architectural detail, detail that will define a building's style or lack of it. Architectural detail can make a building or as Ruskin put it '*decoration makes the architecture*'. Likewise, sculptural adornment on an edifice or in the spaces around it, adds richness, spice and character. Such sculpture can commemorate an event, be allegorical, allude to a building's purpose or just purport to delight the eye.

Derry is not over endowed in such works but nevertheless it sports some interesting examples and some executed by artists of renown. Some pieces reflect the ravages of time while others have been removed to places where only few eyes can behold.

Among the earliest items of interest are two wall memorials in the north aisle of St. Columb's Cathedral dating from the seventeenth century and commemorating a former Mayor of Derry, Hugh Edwards, who died in 1672 and the other,

probably dating from 1678, is known as the Tomkins and Elwin monument. The primitive style of each bear a marked similarity, probably moulded by the same person. According to Colby, these items were coloured in black, red and white coatings. Not far away from the Cathedral and decorating the facades of the triumphal arch, better known as Bishop's Gate, are sculpted heads on the keystones of the main arch representing the rivers Boyne and Foyle. These bold, invigorating heads, excellent of their kind, are similar to those on the Custom House in



River God, Triumphal Arch  
By Edward Smyth

Dublin and were carved by a well-known Dublin sculptor Edward Smyth (1749-1812), a most forceful and adapting artist who did several works for the georgian architect James Gandon. Also on the facades of the arch over the lateral passages, crisply decorated panels illustrate military accountments done by Edward Smyth. Shipquay Gate too, has sculpted panels, perhaps from the same hand, showing a cornucopia and a caduceus recalling the gods Jupiter and Hermes.

Missing from their perches on the pediment of the Courthouse in Bishop Street are the works in Portland stone by Edward Smyth - two statues portraying Justice and Peace and the coat of arms of George III (1766-1820). It is hoped that when the present restoration work is completed these works will be mounted in their original positions. Another missing piece of sculpture, which crowned the now eradicated Walker monument, that imperious pointing figure of Governor Walker himself, larger than lifesize, sculpted by another Dublin man also called Smyth with a forename John.



*Governor Walker by John Smyth*

A fashionable decorative feature of victorian commercial buildings was carved keystone over doors and windows showing heads of different races, particularly of the main trading areas of the world. Thus one might see the head of a red indian, a chinaman, a negro, an east indian. Such heads

can be seen on the keystone of the shirt factory in Queen Street and on the Commercial or Mitchell building in Foyle Street. Sadly those on the latter structure suffered spalling in a destructive fire. On the parapet of the Commercial building there perched a sculptured setpiece representing Britannia. Mr. Mitchell, who commissioned the building, was a ship owner and trader. This piece has disappeared. Perhaps someday it will re-emerge from its hiding place and adorn what is one of Derry's better commercial buildings.

Keystones were also used to perpetuate the memory of personages and worthies, such as Adam Murray and David Cairns, prominent in the great siege, are remembered on Magazine Gate. Belfast sculptors, who likely provided the victorian pieces in Derry, one very fine craftsman among them was one Thomas Fitzpatrick, who did the figures of Britannia in the pediment of the Belfast Custom House. A similar imposing piece adorns the centrepiece of the balustraded parapet of St. Columb's Hall in Newmarket Street though representing Erin, Temperance and Valour in an allegorical statement. C. W. Harrison of Dublin was the author.

Temperance brings to mind a great advocate of that virtue, a Father William Elliott, who indeed was the driving force behind the erection of St. Columb's Hall. He is commemorated in a white marble sculptural piece in the Long Tower church



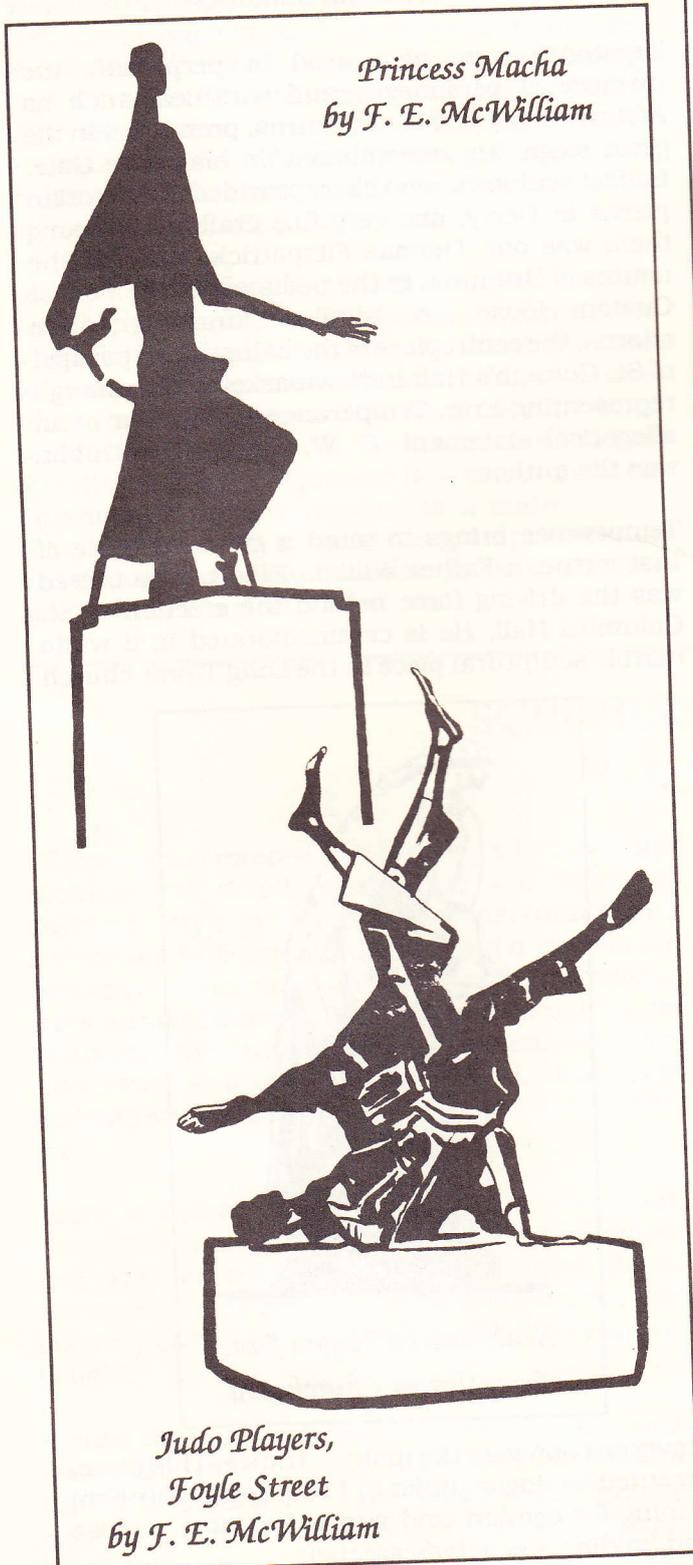
*Sculpture by Hogan Jun.  
Long Tower Churchyard*

graveyard opposite the main entrance. This piece, executed by Hogan junior in 1889, represents Erin leaning for comfort and support against a cross and holding a scholar's satchel.

One of the most ambitious outdoor sculptural groups in the town provides the centrepiece in the Diamond to the memory of the dead of the 1914-18 war. This dominant, strident piece, indeed, warlike and representing victory in the central winged figure was designed by a Kent man, Vernon March, in 1927. Providing great contrast in interpretation and in artistic sensitivity are the works of F. E. McWilliam. That of Princess Macha, at the entrance to Altnagelvin Hospital, has superb quality

of regality, dignity and the textured intensity of the surfaces add absorbing interest. The wrestling group in the Riverside park, Foyle Street, captures wonderfully the athleticism of the figures, the smooth texture of the surfaces enhances this quality. One is absorbed by the spirit of movement that McWilliam has evoked and yet stilled momentarily in the action. Not so, the immobile, unemotional, primitive scarecrow which afflicts the church bastion on the walls. A ghoulish effort that would be much improved if it, per chance, was enshrouded in a blanket of fog.

Our city can gain much from imaginative sculpture displayed in prominent spaces commemorating and interpreting our history and aspirations. The group of bronze emigrant figures by Eamonn Doherty in Waterloo Square is excellent if somewhat disconcertingly mixed with a lack-lustre water feature. One hopes that the sculptural group proposed for Carlisle Square captures the much hoped for spirit of the town, that it is a work of art, a marvellous inspirational introduction to a historic and modern town.



*Princess Macha  
by F. E. McWilliam*

*Judo Players,  
Foyle Street  
by F. E. McWilliam*



*Saint Columba, Low Relief Panel,  
Foyer, Guildhall*

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIAMOND

*By Annesley Malley*

In 1600, when Sir Henry Docwra landed at Culmore and marched to Derry, he decided to encamp around the old church of St. Augustine's off Bishop Street. He proceeded to fortify the area with earthen walls or ramparts, but the layout drawn by Griffen Cocket in 1600 showed no real centre or market place.<sup>(1)</sup> It is not until the City is sacked by Sir Cahir O'Doherty in 1608 that during the proposed rebuilding a central market place is thought of. It appears on the proposed plan of 1611 with walls on only three sides. The plan was to have a uniform street pattern with a Market Square in the centre.<sup>(2)</sup> The plan was later to enclose all four walls and to retain the central square. In 1619 in the survey done by Nicholas Pynnar of the City shows the central square with houses all around with a large cannon pointing down Shipquay Street.<sup>(3)</sup>

In 1622 Sir Thomas Phillips suggests that a Market House or Citadel be erected in the market square. A copy of his drawing is reproduced overleaf from Colby's 'Parish of Templemore' 1837. This building was apparently never erected.<sup>(4)</sup>

It was not until 1625 that the next map produced by Thomas Raven shows the Town Hall as built. This building is said to have cost £500 and was described as having three arches on both sides and one at the end next Shipquay Street. It appears to have an upstairs room for meetings with towers etc. The building was 65 feet long and 32 feet broad. The Market Place was to be 200 feet square. The type of building described would have been common in England and operated as a covered market as well as a meeting place for the Council.<sup>(5)</sup>

The first use of the word 'Diamond' appears in the Census of 1659 and part of it is reproduced overleaf.<sup>(6)</sup> The word 'Diamond' is common in the west as it is also found in County Donegal in Donegal Town; Raphoe; Castlefinn and Carndonagh. In County Derry it is found in Coleraine; Magherafelt; Kilrea and Portstewart. It also appears in County Antrim in Ahoghill and Ballycastle and in Middletown in County Armagh. In County Tyrone it appears in Castle-derg and Pomeroy and in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh.

It is difficult to say when it was first used in these towns or why it was applied to an area of different shapes as some are squares and some are triangles. With the square where four streets meet with a market place in the middle it was logical for

traffic not to cut across the area in the middle, but cut off the corners thus leaving the shape of a diamond.

The Diamond and its Town Hall were badly damaged during the Siege of 1689 and in 1692 a new Town Hall was erected to a design of Captain Francis Neville and a copy of the drawing is reproduced overleaf from Colby's 'Parish of Templemore' 1837. This splendid building was called 'The Exchange' and King William and Queen Mary gave £1,500 towards the cost of building it and a further £300 was given by the Grand Jury. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop King and Alderman Lecky.<sup>(7)</sup>

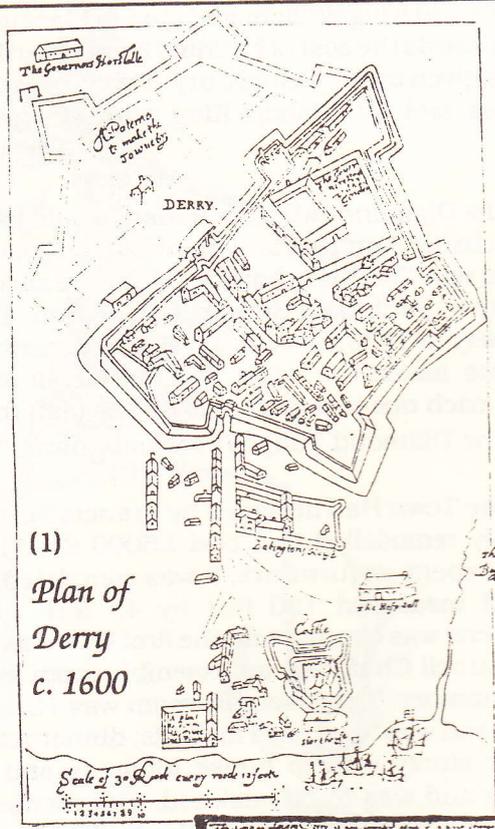
Around the Diamond the other houses would have also been badly damaged and many of them would have been rebuilt. This is borne out by the survey of the City by Archibald Stewart for the Hon. The Irish Society in 1738. His written survey describes the houses inside the walls in some detail and numbers each one to a plan. It is on the plan that he calls the Diamond 'King William's Square'.<sup>(8)</sup>

In 1823 the Town Hall designed by Francis Neville was totally remodelled and cost £5000 9s. 11d. with £400 spent on furniture. It was completed in 1826 and measured 120 feet by 45 feet. The southern end was circular and the first floor was to have a Council Chamber, an assembly room and an anti-chamber. The assembly room was 75 feet by 36 feet and was to be used for balls, dinners etc. The lower storey was to house kitchens and a newsroom and was to be enclosed. The markets were now too large to house in the building and appeared in different places in the City. This building is shown in Hempton's engraving of the mid-nineteenth century and was used by the Londonderry Corporation up until the new Guildhall was opened in 1890 at Shipquay Place.<sup>(9)</sup> The old Corporation Hall was used for many things including a School of Art. The building was destroyed in 1903 when a disastrous fire in Austin's old shop caused sparks to blow across the Diamond and set fire to the wooden clock tower and thus destroying the building.

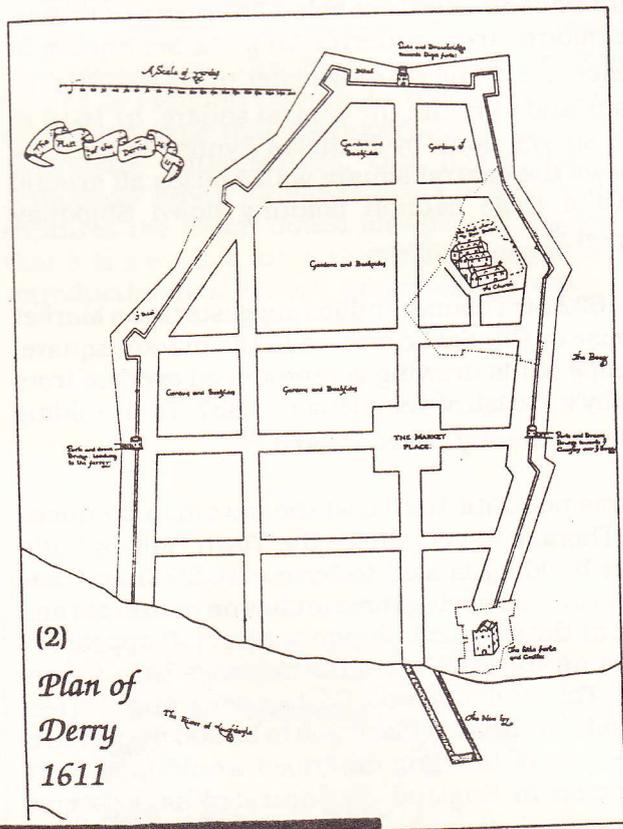
The building lay until 1909 when it was demolished and the area cleared for enclosed gardens to be laid out by The Irish Society. They were opened on 10th August 1910 by Sir Alfred Newton, Governor of the Hon. The Irish Society.<sup>(10)</sup> The following article from the *Londonderry Standard* of 26th July 1913 describes these gardens:<sup>(11)</sup>

With the end of the First World War the Diamond was to see the erection of the City's War Memorial designed by Vernon March from Kent. The Memorial to the 756 dead and 4,000 Volunteers was unveiled on 14th February 1927 by Major-General F. F. Ready, officer commanding the Northern Region. The cost was £5,000 and it stands 38 feet 6 inches tall with the figure of Victory on top of the Portland Stone plinth. Alongside are the figures of a barefooted seaman and an infantry man in action. The four small gardens at each corner were later removed to make way for a wider footpath.<sup>(12)</sup>

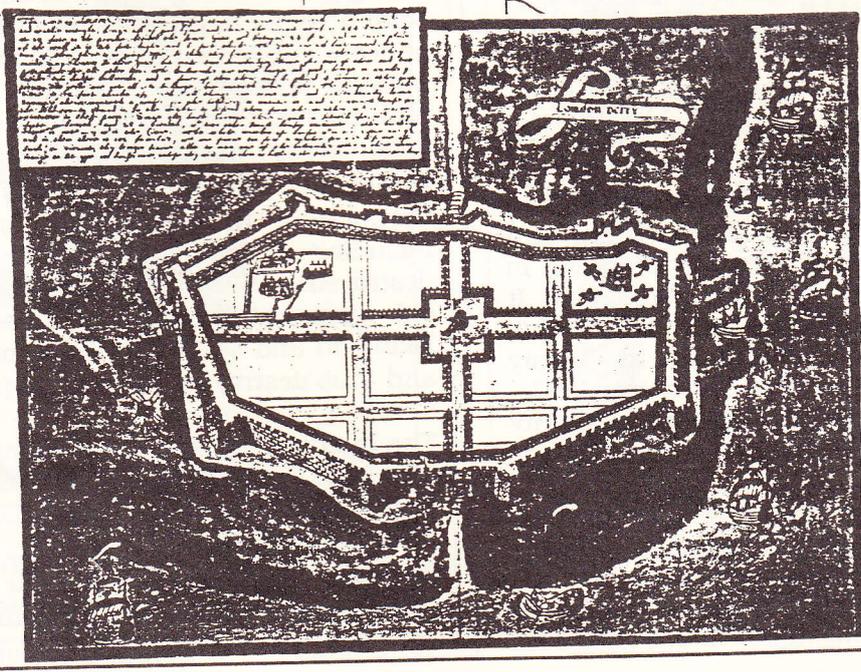
The buildings around the Diamond have been used for the past 375 years for residential and commercial use, but most of the present buildings are relatively modern but are used only for commercial purposes. Even the Diamond itself was used for the old hiring fairs but yet it would still be considered by many to be the centre of the old City and will be considered so for many years to come.



(1)  
Plan of  
Derry  
c. 1600



(2)  
Plan of  
Derry  
1611



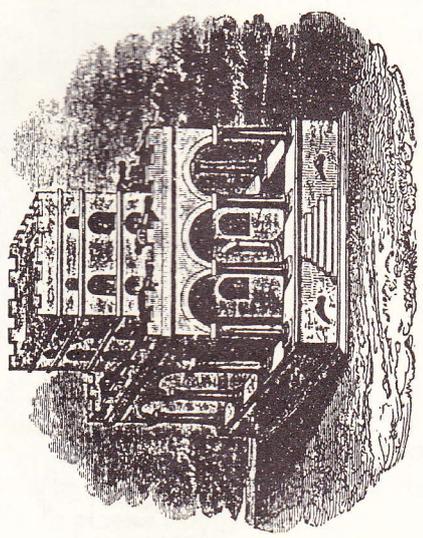
(3)  
1619

(6) 1659 Census

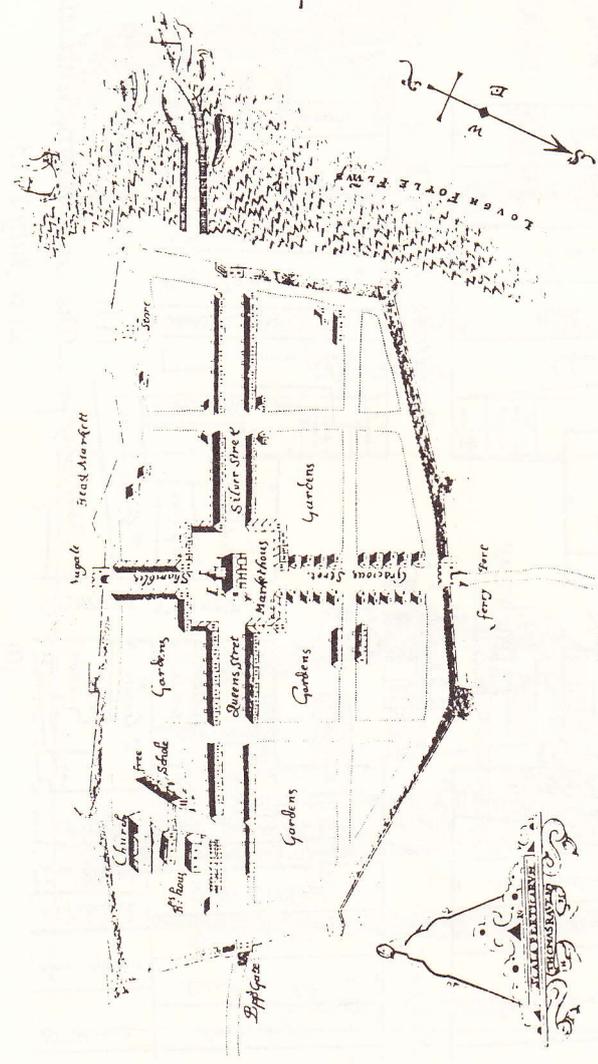
LONDONDERRY CITY AND COUNTY

(Note 1). Townboundary City and suburbs and y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>ar</sup>t of the Liberties lying on ye North side of ye River of Loughfoyle

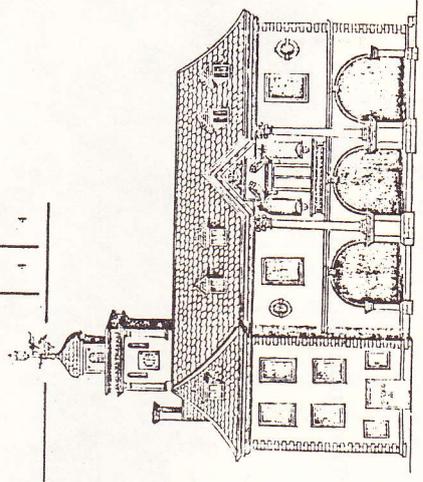
Parishes	Streets	Number of People	Tithables Names	Eng & Scotlis	Irish
Templemore	Silber Streete	634	Coll George Gorges, Samuell Hill Esqr, Henry Osborne, and John Phinckett gentis, John McKeowny, John Burnside, and James Lenox Marchants	034	018
	Diamond Streete	14	James Holgan, John Craig and Thomas Moncreife Marchant	10	04
	Without Ship Gate	1	—	4	000
	P <sup>ar</sup> t of Silber streete	37	Robert Truman, Henry Osborne, John Gifford, Robert Houston and Samuell Norman, gentlemen, Thomas Bouke Esqr Robert Carter collector of ye Customehouse	22	15
	The back of Silber Streete	32	—	23	9
	P <sup>ar</sup> t of ye Diamond	43	Thomas Cole Esqr & Henry Finch Esqr Geruis Squire gentleman George Squire & Robert Morrison Marchants	18	05
	P <sup>ar</sup> t of Butchers Streete	046	John Gamble Marchant	027	009
	Without Butchers gate	65	James Fisher & James Wilson	34	34
	P <sup>ar</sup> t of ye Diamond	15	Altrich	11	4
	P <sup>ar</sup> t of Ferrygate Streete	26	Symon Pitt Esqr & William Fowler Mch <sup>o</sup>	18	8
(Note 2).	P <sup>ar</sup> t of Pump Streete	38	Hugh Thomson gent	22	10
	P <sup>ar</sup> t of Ferrygate Streete	11	Esqr Peter Lawson, and Nathaniell Drew gentlemen William Rodgers and James Rodgers Marchants	35	9
	At Ferry gate	7	Henry Conway Esqr, Will Gardner and Henry Gaultier marchants	2	5
	Without Ferry Gate	110	—	75	11
	P <sup>ar</sup> t of ye Diamond	20	John White and Hugh Edwards	14	06
	P <sup>ar</sup> t of Bishop Gates Streete	26	—	13	13
	The lane to ye Old church	8	March <sup>o</sup>	4	4



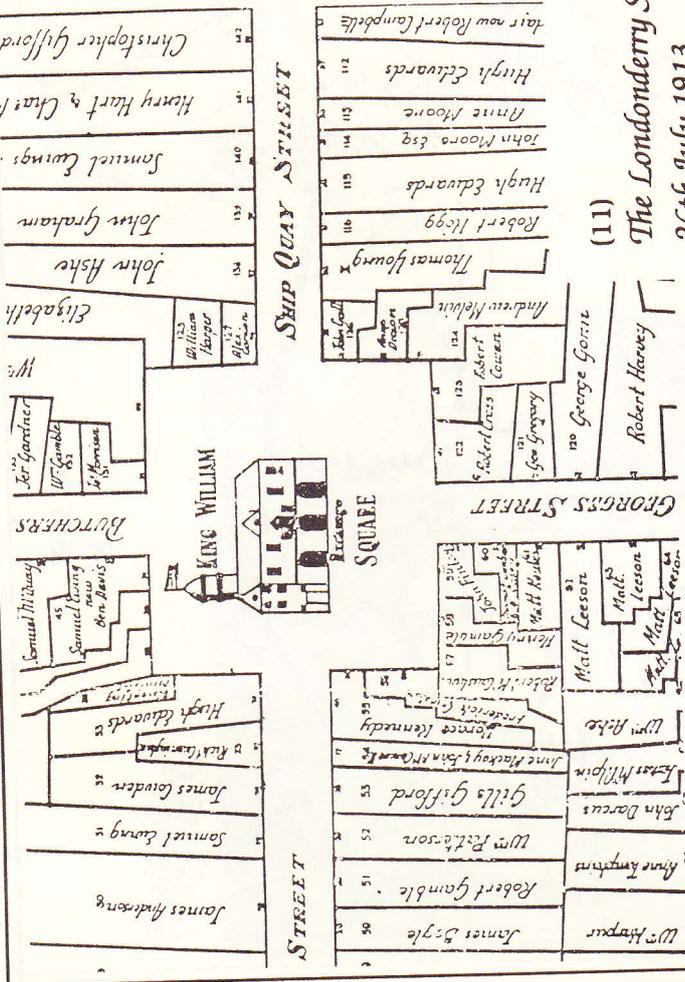
(4) 1622 'Proposed Townhall'



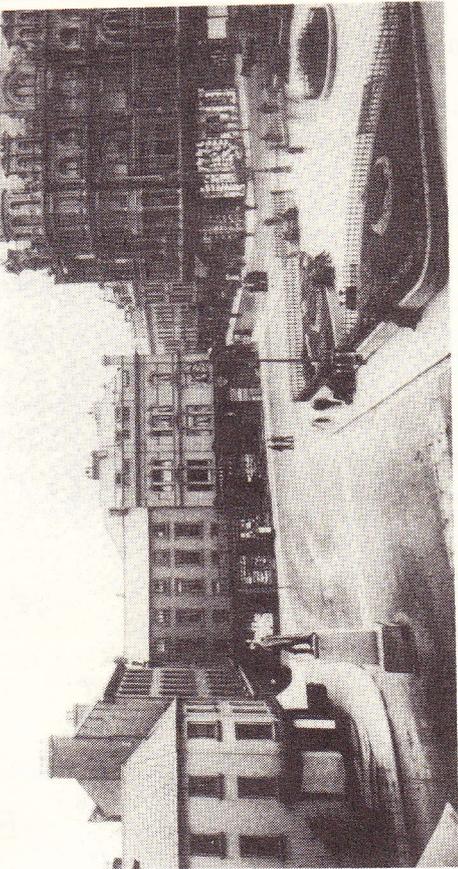
(5) 1625 Map



(7) Town Hall by Francis Neville 1692



(10) *The Diamond, c. 1912*  
(W. A. Green 997, Ulster Folk & Transport Museum)



(11) *The Londonderry Sentinel*  
26th July 1913.



(8) *The Diamond, 1738*



It is frequently our pleasure to congratulate Mr. Lindsay, parks superintendent, on the taste and beauty which characterise the laying out of the flower beds at the Diamond Gardens. Never, perhaps, did the beds present a prettier picture than at present, with the nicely-varied plants in full bloom. A fine display of bridal-robe and marigolds make an attractive centre-piece. The scheme affecting the corner plots is likewise of a most artistic nature, the centre in each case being filled with P. Crampel geraniums and calceolarias, and the border being composed of aleyssium or artavara. Scotch visitors have been struck with the magnificence of the gardens, and some will even admit that they compare favourably with the well-known Glasgow beauty spot - St. George's Square. In these warm days, the Diamond certainly suggests an idea of freshness and repose, and the scene is one on which the eye loves to linger. In view of the coming Visitation of the Irish Society, at whose expense the Diamond Gardens are maintained, it is gratifying to have the garden plots attired in so rich a garb.

(9) *Corporation Hall*

## FOYLE CIVIC TRUST'S SUMMER OUTING

Despite dreadful weather, The Foyle Civic Trust members and friends enjoyed a very successful summer outing recently, where local history, architecture and breath-taking landscapes were all catered for admirably. The trip covered Lough Swilly, the Lennon river at Ramelton and Sheephaven Bay area.

The group met for morning coffee at Castlegrove House, a mid-eighteenth century dwelling 3 miles from Letterkenny, where Mr. Annesley Malley gave talk on the history of the house followed by an architectural appreciation of the building, delivered by Mr. J. J. Tracey. The group then travelled to Fort Stewart House, a most interesting 18th century house which once belonged to Sir James Stewart. Everyone took shelter under a large oak tree at the bottom of the garden whilst J. J. Tracey described the wonderful situation of the house with its fine views of Burt Castle and Grianan of Aileach across the lough. The present owner, Mrs. Day, welcomed a wet but enthusiastic crowd into the house where each room was described in detail. Mrs. Day also recounted some interesting stories concerning various objects in the house. Before leaving she persuaded the party to go down to the shore to have a look at the ferry house.

After a picnic lunch the group gathered by the river in Ramelton where Trevor and Phyllis from the Ramelton Development Association took us on a guided tour of the town which included a visit to the Presbyterian Meeting House c. 1680 where Trevor Gambol gave a very informative talk on the history of the House. Afterwards a special treat was a visit to the manse, a splendid Georgian house in Mortimer's Lane, where the delightful owner, Mrs. Scott, showed us around her house and entertained everyone with amusing anecdotes.

Mr. Bob Hunter, who is an expert on "Bawns", was one of the group and he enthralled us with his vast knowledge of the Bawn at Ramelton.

Lurgyvale, at Kilmacrenan, was the next stop, where afternoon tea was much appreciated and afterwards the group continued to Doe Castle via the road to Lough Salt. The mist and rain did little to detract from the breath-taking views as the top of the road was reached.

Thankfully the rain had stopped when members reached Doe Castle, which is beautifully situated by the upper reaches of Sheephaven Bay. Doe Castle is quite a dramatic place and Ms. McClintock, from Kilmacrenan, added to the drama by recounting some of the myths and legends concerning the castle in bygone days. Mr. Tracey talked of the history of the castle and also its architectural merits pointing out the strategic position it commands: by this time our numbers had increased and it was very gratifying to watch continental visitors to the castle listening intently to every word.

Replete with cultural knowledge most of the group continued to the Carrigart Hotel for dinner.

