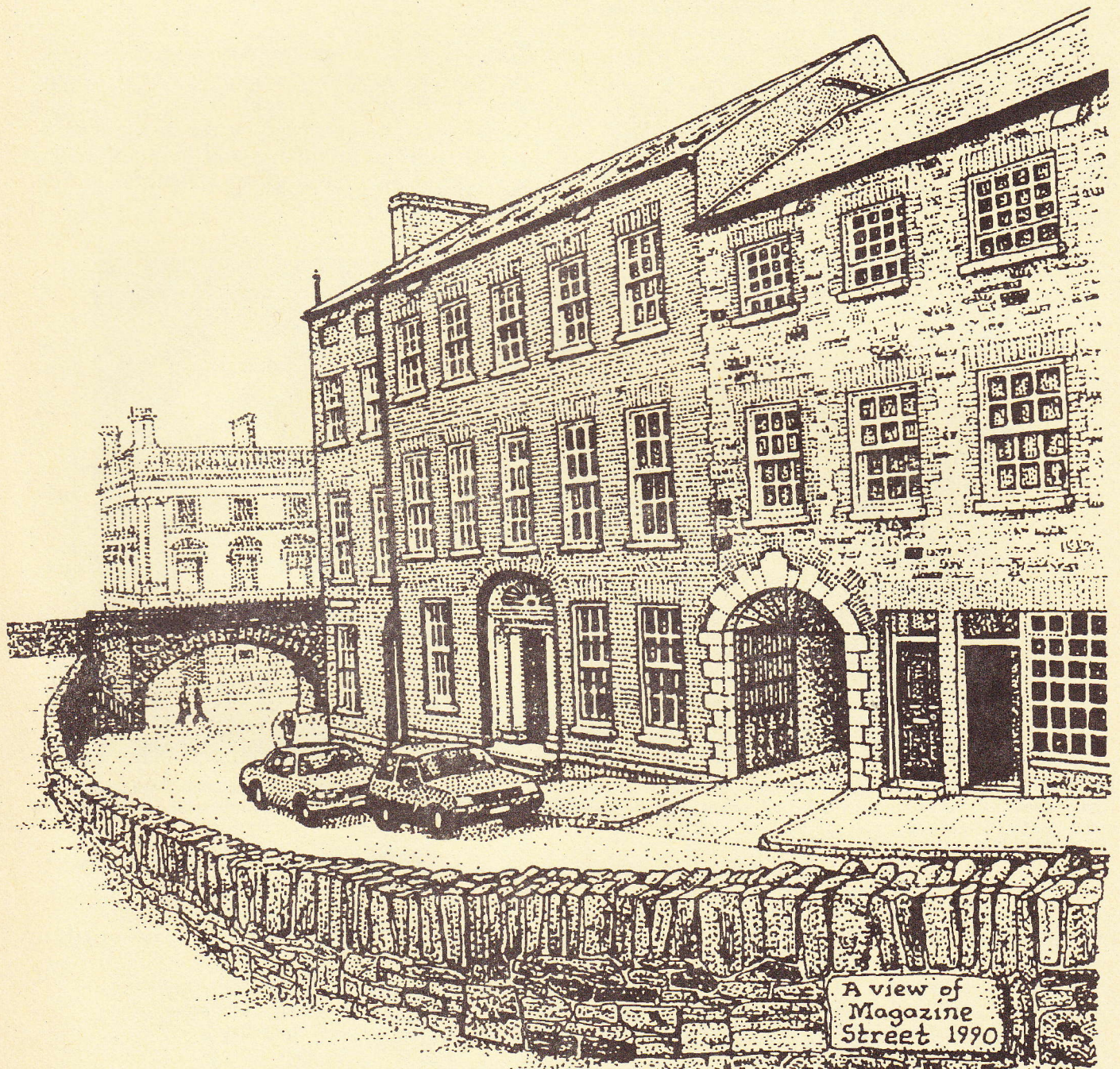



REVIEW

CIVIC TRUST The Magazine of the Foyle Civic Trust

Issue 1

Spring 1990



Timothy J. Webster 

FOREWORD

This newsheet records the activities of the first half year of the establishment of the Foyle Civic Trust, which began in May 1989. The Trust thus became the sixth such group in Ireland; others begun earlier are Belfast, Newry, Limerick, Cork and Kilkenny. The aims and activities of the Trust will follow those of the first Trust set up in London in 1957. These aims are the protection and improvement of our environment particularly within the geographical area of the District Councils of Derry, Limavady and Strabane and the Inishowen peninsula. The Trust's activities will be geared to create an awareness of the fine attributes of our environment, to help towards its improvement, give encouragement to good and sympathetic design, to draw attention to any erosion of our townscapes and landscapes, our river valleys and sea coasts. Today, when pollution and much vandalism make inroads on so much beauty, which we easily take for granted, it is imperative that a great

watchfulness is kept on the ever increasing development taking place all round. We want increasing development but we want pleasing development, something that local people can be proud of and the visitor will come to see.

It is hoped that the last decade of this century will herald and see, put into form, fine new development and healthy conservation of the present and past in this area.

The Civic Trusts are independent charities, they need support, they need membership, they need sponsorship for their activities. Already the Foyle Civic Trust has been greatly heartened by the response of the public, societies, institutions and local and central government. May this response manifest itself fruitfully in the 1990's.



The Mayor of Derry, Colr. Mrs. Anna Gallagher, pictured at the inaugural meeting of the Foyle Civic Trust. Included, from left, Mr. Joe Tracey, newly elected chairman, Mr. Denis Leonard, director, Limerick Civic Trust, guest speaker, and Mr Andrew Meenagh, chairman of the steering committee.

Photograph Courtesy of Derry Journal

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Vice-Chairman Ms Eileen Schlindwein
Hon. Secretary Mr Seamus Canavan
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Mrs Mary McLaughlin
Mrs Anne McCartney
Mrs Anne Cregan

THE WATER BASTION AND URBAN RENEWAL IN DERRY

by R. J. Hunter

The walls in Derry are distinctive not because they are old medieval walls but rather because they survive from the age of the 'military revolution' of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Viewed in that light, they are unique in Ireland and their only equivalents in England are the walls at Berwick-on-Tweed. The need for new-style fortifications arose from technological change in warfare, especially the use of the cannon. In Irish circumstances concern about this sprang more from fear of invasion than from simply local uprising. The two however had combined at the end of the sixteenth century with the Spanish landing at Kinsale in 1601. Fortifications on which cannon could be placed were now being devised, with bastions constructed along their length for that purpose. Much of the historical and architectural importance of the walls at Derry resides in their bastions. A bastion facing the water would be of special importance.

The organic growth of the city in the nineteenth century led to the destruction of the Water Bastion. Initially what was discussed, in the 1830's was the making of an entrance into the city at that point from Foyle Street. Should the bastion be interfered with and steps erected onto the walls or should the entry 'be brought under an archway'? Then in 1844 the Londonderry Sentinel noted

that 'a new and large set of steps' was being erected and protested against the spoliation of the walls 'once our city's strength and now her ornament'. The eventual outcome was not, however, unpleasing: distinguished three-storey houses were built on the East Wall; the fine entrances to the buildings on Foyle Street related well to the steps; such fragments of the bastion as remained were railed in.

Unfortunately, it could be argued, action, both official and unofficial, has led to the clearing of the entire Water Bastion area, including the destruction, rather than conservation, of the East Wall houses. The one positive outcome has been that an archaeological excavation has revealed the precise outline of the bastion. Opportunity accordingly now presents itself for the careful reconstruction of that bastion. However a proposal made some time ago that it should be reconstructed because it would relate well to the design and location of the new city library nearby and restore a significant feature of the walls in a key location, was not received with favour by the Historic Monuments branch of the D.O.E. in Belfast. Now, however, circumstances have changed again with massive proposals for commercial development further along Foyle Street. It has become even more important therefore that the bastion site receives the most careful attention.

Central Derry is small. Equivalent towns in England such as Chester received lavish conservational attention with most beneficial results. Awards for reconstruction are given within the old town of Edinburgh. We must hope that the developmental decisions reached now for the twenty-first century for all of Foyle Street will produce an outcome at least up to the aesthetic standard of those of the nineteenth. The restored bastion could become the angular point of transition from old to new.



ENTRANCE TO

What has The Foyle Civic Trust to do with me?



Deputy Mayor: Councillor Davis with Chairman Joe Tracey planting the oak tree

Photograph Courtesy of Larry Doherty, Derry Journal.

The Foyle Civic Trust was set up in April, 1989. It came about as the result of a group of local people identifying areas of common interest. These individuals, from diverse professional and community backgrounds, were motivated by a common desire to stimulate an interest in the environment, be it a building, a street, a neighbourhood or the countryside.

The Foyle Civic Trust is a local charitable society registered with the London Civic Trust. Its main objectives are to stimulate public interest in the city and the surrounding area, to promote high standards of architecture and planning within the city, to preserve features worthy of retention, and to improve those which are indifferent.

The activities of the local Civic Trust are not solely concerned with buildings nor centred around a group of people with specialised expertise. The FCT has a much greater task which is to stimulate public interest. To stimulate - to arouse, quicken the senses, or excite - is the challenge offered by the Trust. This involves getting the man and woman in the street to take a fresh look at their surroundings.

The fabric of our city, and the villages and countryside that surround it, in many ways reflects the course of the past history of the region and the changes that have taken place here over the years. When going about our daily business, even in what might be considered a dreary street or road, why not try to do some detective work? Take a good look

at the buildings, their design, and layout. Is there something special about them? Is there a particular building I like and why? What gives the street its special characteristics? Is it the houses, or the way the street is laid out? When was it built, who lived in the houses, how is it related to the wider locality? What is significant about its name? Has the street changed much in the last five, ten, twenty years? Have the old shop fronts and workshops disappeared? Are the smells and the noises the same? Is there something that upsets you? What can be done to improve it? How can I do something about it? These are some of the questions we can ask ourselves.

Living in Great James Street questions like these crossed my mind. I witnessed the street line disappear, lovely old terraces of Victorian houses being pulled down and not being replaced. Houses in the locality were pebbled-dashed, red brick facades were painted over, sash windows were replaced by ugly inappropriate modern ones. These changes, taken individually, may not seem very significant, but on a larger scale they can totally alter the character of a neighbourhood.

Change is inevitable. The life of a house or building may or may not be extended. Derry's architectural heritage must be valued and recognised, by the citizens as well as by the statutory bodies. The setting up of two Conservation Areas in Derry was a positive gesture by the Historic Monuments Branch of the Department of the Environment to safeguard this heritage. The removal of traffic in the centre of the city is a step in the right direction and the work being carried out on the Walls is to be welcomed. Why not include the rebuilding of the Water Bastion in the ongoing work!

How can an individual have a say about what is happening in his or her locality? Despite increasing public awareness of the importance of the environment and the need for conservation, it is difficult to understand why more people are not coming forward and joining local groups. Instead of getting angry or depressed because a building has been destroyed or demolished, a tree damaged, or a green area being concreted over for car parking, you can now do something about this. You can join the Foyle Civic Trust and share the burden of protecting our surroundings. We badly need new members, people who will get actively involved and help us protect what is best in the urban and rural environment of Derry and its surrounding areas. If you are interested, you can obtain further information from our office. Remember, each one of us has an individual responsibility to pass on to the next generation the best aspects of the environment that we inherited from our ancestors.

by Joan Pyne.

Many thanks to the following people who sponsored our oak tree:

Mr Jack McCauley, Quantity Surveyor,
45 Clarendon Street, Londonderry

Delap & Waller, Consulting Engineers,
1 Crawford Square, Londonderry

G. M. White Associates, Architects,
18 Clarendon Street, Londonderry

Hegarty Masterson & Doherty, Architects,
12 Clarendon Street, Londonderry

Albert Wallace Associates, Architects,
51 Strand Road, Londonderry

James Sammon, Quantity Surveyor,
35 Clarendon Street, Londonderry

McCormick Tracey Mullarkey, Architects,
29 Clarendon Street, Londonderry

J. C. Warnock, Consulting Engineers,
24 Clarendon Street, Londonderry

F. M. Corr & Associates, Architects,
1 Bayview Terrace, Londonderry

STRABANE NEWS

Strabane and District Wildlife and Conservation Group are negotiating with their local council at the present time for the restoration of the old Strabane Canal.

The group is concerned at the deterioration of this old canal. It is being used as a rubbish tip at the moment and the trees are being vandalised. Martin McCay who is Chairman of the Group is hoping that they can liaise successfully with the Strabane District Council with a view to preserving the canal and perhaps create a wildlife area as part of the development.

Anyone wishing to contact the Group should telephone Strabane 382341 or contact Sean Doherty Tel. 884743.

This sounds like a very interesting project and we wish the Strabane & District Wildlife & Conservation Group every success with their venture.

AN OLD GRAVEYARD

*Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,
and all the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds:*

Thomas Gray 1716-1771

St. Patrick, it is said, established seven churches in the valley of the Faughan. Some have identified these as Clooney, Enagh, Clondermott, Kilcatten, Cumber, Straid, Faughanvale. To these could be added Kilennan, Gran-sha, Kilfinnan, Killaloo Ardmore, Badoney, Templemoyle, Donagheady. At Enagh, Clondermott, Cumber, Faughanvale there exists not only ruins but graveyards, though with the exception of Faughanvale, most of the ruins are likely to be the remains of the 17th, 18th and 19th century erections built on medieval foundations. The graveyards occupy secluded places where burials have taken place up to recent times. Usually they

are overgrown, nettles cover the ground in dense profusion in summertime, to die away completely in Winter, ivy clads the remaining walls of the old church; an elderberry tree, an ash, or a sycamore struggles to survive among its crumbling walls causing greater distortion to the moss covered stone structure.

A window can be discerned in an east gable, always the sanctuary end, or a bellcote precariously balanced on top of a west wall depending on the ivy mesh to stay in place. Sometimes a doorway, even a porch still remains. Such a ruin is that of the remains of old Cumber church nestling near the confluence of the rivers Faughan and Glenrandle and overlooked across the waters of the latter by Cumber House, its five bay Georgian facades basking in the light of a westering sun. Lying below the crossroads of the Allan and Cumber roads most of the walls of the old church remain, with its western bellcote, its eastern window and abutting west porch. Around it,

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PAUL MC LAUGHLIN



in higgledy-piggledy fashion, are the graves and monuments of centuries. Plots overgrown, eroding railings, decaying headstones, sunken table monuments, all at various angles of subsidence but together making a romantic, fascinating kaleidoscope of the past. Some of these graveyards are defined by lichen coloured walls

encapsulating the small plot. Near Cumber graveyard, at a bend in the river Faughan, spans Cumber bridge, a narrow stone structure with recesses for the footperson to seek refuge as a vehicle passes, defying the ravages of time and the surging floods.

That the old parish church of St. Eugene of Cumber is of early medieval foundation there is no doubt as it was recorded in Archbishop Cotton's visitation to the Diocese of Derry and is referred to in the taxation of Pope Nicholas in 1291. The present ruins, observing the correct orientation of churches, (the west end looked west) are those of a church in occupation up to 1860 when the new Church of Ireland parish church replaced it a little distance away. The present structure probably dates from 1757 and very likely conforms in outline to the remains of the medieval church ruins of 1622.

Though most of the gravestones, identifiable, records Church of Ireland members of the past, two Catholic priests are buried there indicative of a tradition of burials of mixed religions stemming from the pre-plantation foundation. Like many other church ruins, gravestones and monuments are to be found within the old walls adding to the ambience and atmosphere of the place and one of them informing us that the landowners of the district were the Brownes of Cumber. Like the two rivers the place breathes an air of timelessness. But time is not kind to manmade things and the old masonry walls crumble more as each year and storm passes, the headstones take a crazier angle, sheep and cattle wander among the remains accelerating the ravages of the elements.

The Foyle Civic Trust considers that graveyards like old Cumber deserves to be looked after, to put a time warp on them, not to alter their appearance and atmosphere but to do a certain tidying up to make them attractive to visitors, visual gems in the countryside and a great environmental advantage. Discreet displays could be mounted at the entrances showing a plan with the layout of the graves and names of the buried as far as possible. This would be a tremendous source of interest to the visitor, amateur genealogist, the tourist. Some of these graveyards are now in the ownership of the District Councils or civil authority and would make a worthy project for environmental improvement.

Presently the Foyle Civic Trust is drawing up a list of all the old graveyards within its geographical area, identifying the ownership, the foundation of the site, and its subsequent vicissitudes. Many of the graves have been listed by Irish World so it is hoped that in the near future some of these pleasant places can be inviting retreats to visit and seek information on our past.

*Save where from yonder ivy-mantled tower,
The moping owl does to the moon complain
of such as, wand'ring near her secret bower,
Molest her ancient solitary reign.*

by Joe Tracey

Inheriting the Earth

Like a ratchet, the sound of the buzz saw
Draws us closer to where they have falled:
Like Samsons sheared at the knees,
These summer evening lovers lie
In sweet-scented greenery, they embrace,
For the first time, their own long shadows;
Each dry, flat stump a disappointment
Inserted between desire and consummation.

The words come tumbling after. The leather
Booted protesters trampled the weed, Love-
lies-a-bleeding. Planners and protesters
Locked in dispute can make nothing of it.
Across the grass the saw rings. Each trunk, seduced
In turn by the blade, sprays our dry wood-chips

by Sam Burnside

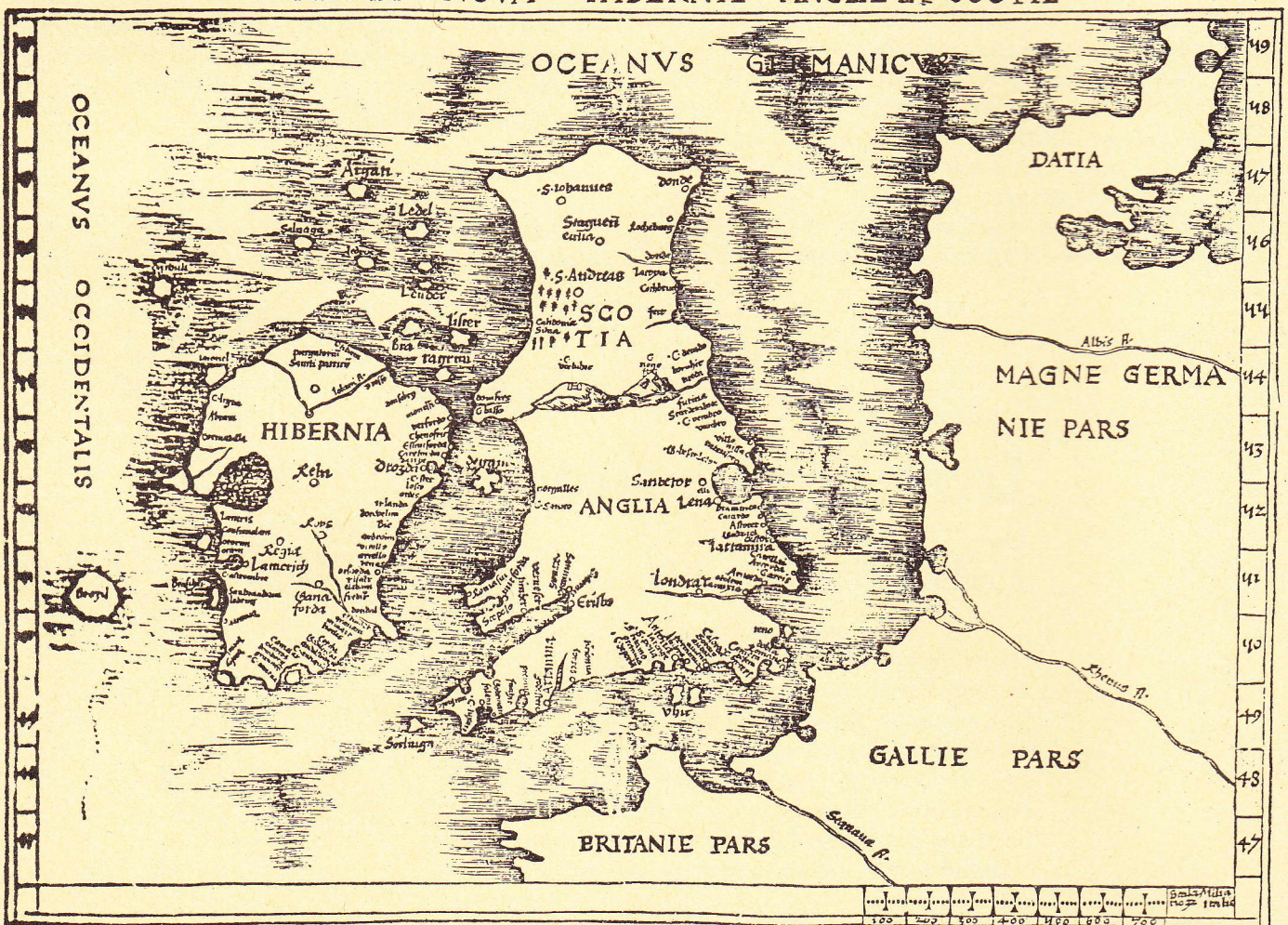
This poem first appeared in Queens University Belfast Gown Literary Supplement August/Winter 1989.

This poem was written with the city's historic connection with Oak Trees in mind after a lot of large trees were cut down in the area.

Local Maps

by Anne McCartney

TABVIA NOVA HIBERNIE ANGLIE ET SCOTIE



6. Britannia from Ptolemaeus, Argentinae 1513. (Orig. size 516 X 316 m.m.).

Although the North West area features in the maps of such eminent early cartographers as Ptolemy, Vesconte and Baptista Boazio it is highly unlikely that they ever set foot in the country. Rather surprisingly, given the high state of culture in Medieval Ireland, there is no ancient Irish manuscript map in existence. Therefore to find the historical roots of mapping in this area we must turn to the Elizabethan cartographers of the early seventeenth century whose maps, although inferior in artistic technique, at least gave a clearer impression of the historical experience of the region.

One of the earliest maps of this type was drawn in ink on paper and is unsigned, updated and without a title, but was later endorsed 27 xbre 1600 A Platt of Logh Foyle broght over by Capt. Covert. Captain Covert was Humphrey Covert, Controller-General of Muster with the Lough Foyle expedition led by Sir Henry Docwra, which landed in May 1600. He left Derry with dispatches from Docwra, including four maps, around the 16th December 1600. The other three maps which were received by Sir Robert Cecil on the 27th were larger scale maps of Derry, Dunalong and Lifford and were enlargements of the more important details of this map.

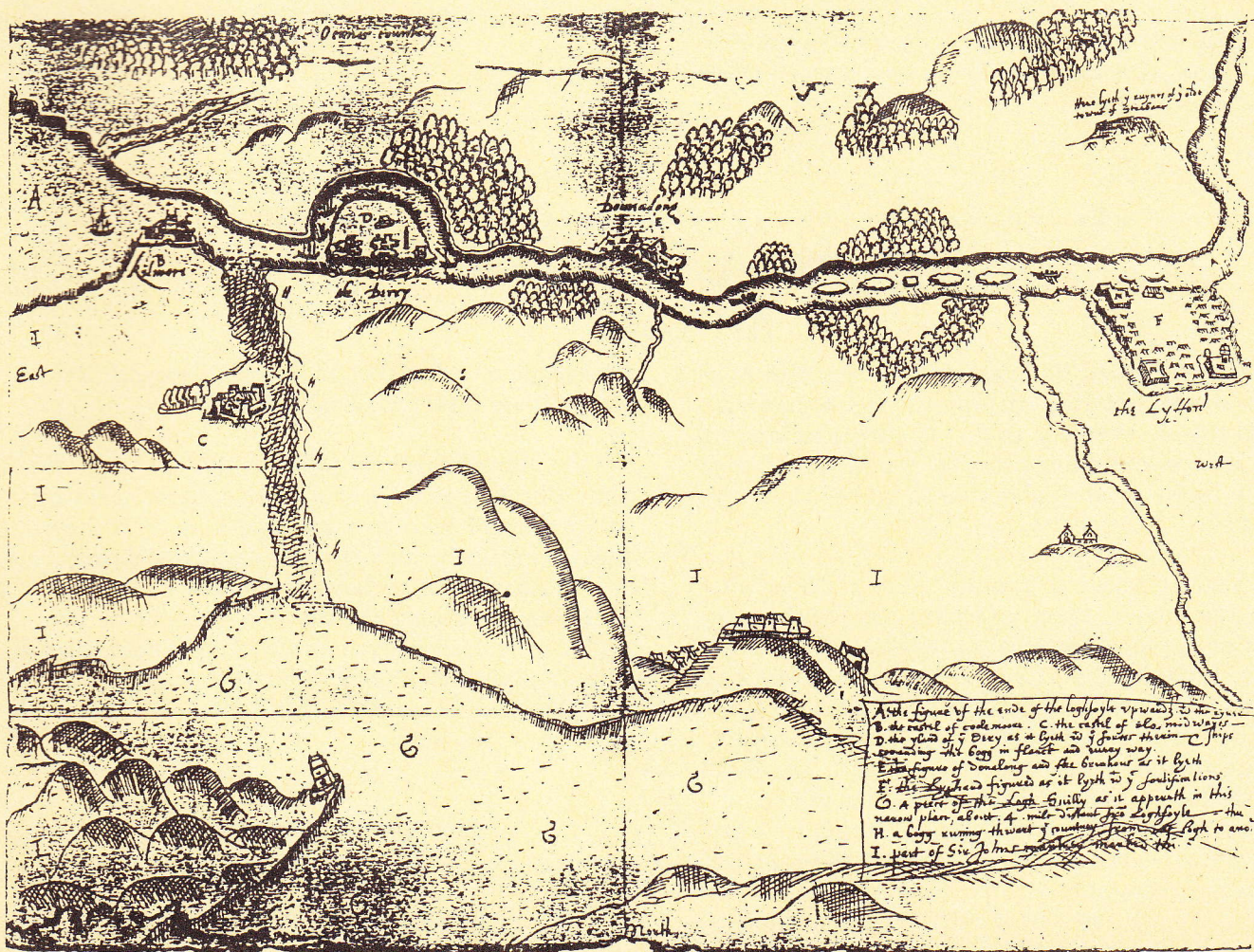
The map shows an area about ten miles by eight, from Lough Foyle to Lifford and from *Ocanes* or O'Cahan's country at the top right hand corner to Lough Swilly at the bottom of the page. Strabane, labelled *Here lyeth the ruynes of the old towne of Strebane* in the top right corner. The tower on the point of land stretching into Lough Swilly may be Fahan; the buildings on the slopes of a hill, also overlooking the Lough, appears to be Coolmacatreen and the ruined church beside a tributary near the right hand margin seems to be Raphoe. The compass directions written on the margins of the map are incorrect, the top of the map being roughly east rather than south.

Apart from the rather naive artistic charm of this map the key provides many interesting historical details. The letter B marks *the castle of Coolemoore* which is of course Culmore, where Docwra landed on May 16th and proceeded to build a fort around the stump of an old castle. C. the castle of *Elmo midways*, is O'Doherty's castle of *Ellogh, or Aileach* which was seized around May 23rd. *The yland of the Dery as it lyeth wt the fortes therein & ships commanding the bogg in flanck and every way*, marked D on the map was occupied by Docwra on May 22nd. Derry was said to lie 'in form of a bow bent, whereof the bog is the string and the river the bow', a description well borne out by the map. The round tower to the right of the central fort, was subsequently known as the "Long Tower".

The English reached Dunnalong by boat on July, occupied it and began building a fort there and E shows *the figure of Donalong and the bruehous as it lyeth*. F marks the Lyphard figured as it lyeth wt the fortifications or Lifford which was taken by a force under Neill O'Donnell on October 8th. H shows *a bogg runing thwart the cuntrey from one logh to anoer and I part of Sir Johns countrey marked th(us)*. Sir John was Sir John O'Doherty and his country was Inishowen.

This map therefore illustrates Docwra's activities in the area from the landing to the end of 1600. A further map sent from Derry on May 15th, 1601 covers Docwra's exploits in Inishowen in the first half of 1601 and shows *The yland of ynche wonne and spoyled by her Majesties forces at Christmas last and on the boggy land stretching between the Foyle and Lough Swilly there appears a chain of forts which the English built in April and May 1601 to prevent O'Donnell's raiding forces from entering Inishowen, which they nevertheless succeeded in doing by placing hurdles over the bog near Coolmacatreen*. In this way these early maps convey a clear impression of originating in the immediate historical experience of the area.

The originals of these maps are held in the Public Record Office, London but copies form part of the comprehensive local map collections in the Central Library, Gt. James Street and the University of Ulster at Magee.



"The real magic of discovery lies not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes"

Marcel Proust

A recent Channel 4 Programme on Derry City Football Club, besides dealing with the Club, included some striking images of Derry and its environs; Inch Island and Lisfannon Beach as background to a training session were startling in their beauty and was just one reminder of the remarkable beauty of this place in which we live. A sense of place is composed to a great extent of images. If our images are limited, our sense of place is limited. Unfortunately our images are often limited by familiarity, indifference or a poor vantage point. Poverty is a poor vantage point.

New vantage points are created in many ways. A few examples will be familiar to everyone who knows this area.

The construction of the Foyle Bridge has opened up new views both up and down the river. The new road in the Waterside from Ebrington to Duke Street gives us the City from yet another view. The new traffic arrangement in the Strand Road had the unplanned effect of opening up the river for thousands of motorists who have come to know the river and the City in its various moods and lighting.

Floodlighting gives us a new awareness of Magee College as one of Derry's most prominent and beautiful buildings. The removal of Rossville Flats puts Butcher Street and The Diamond in touch with the Bogside, St. Eugene's Cathedral, Brooke Park and Rosemount.

Not every new vantage point is as expensive as the New Foyle Bridge. Attitude of mind also creates new vantage points.

On a walk of Holywell Hill last summer a group of local people, all of whom spoke of going there as children were surprised at how differently they now saw it. As children they were pre-occupied with the adventure of the trip. Now they were moved by beauty on all sides. And it was more than just visual beauty; there was a feel for the place. It could just as well be the top of Benevenagh or a dozen other locations in this area. For this group of adults the shift of years gave a shift of vantage point.

Artists give us new vantage points. Artists look more searchingly and we depend on them to create vantage points of a new kind. Above all we don't want to settle for a few tired and cliched postcard views of the City and its life.

Through its activities The Foyle Civic Trust has a role in stimulating us to see in creating new, imaginative ways of seeing the City, the river and its hinterland. Being put in touch with our environment in this way puts us in touch with our heritage, gives us a sense of place, a sense of joy and a sense of pride.

There is a danger that development of the City's resources and renewal of the area could be seen in purely economic and material terms. These alone are not enough. Development of a sense of place and history must not be neglected.

Patricia Wilson



The Week That Lasts All Year

Environment Week 1990 takes place from 28th April and continues until the 7th May. Environment week's aim is to help everyone to do something to improve their own surroundings, tackle a local problem or simply find out more about what makes their own area tick.

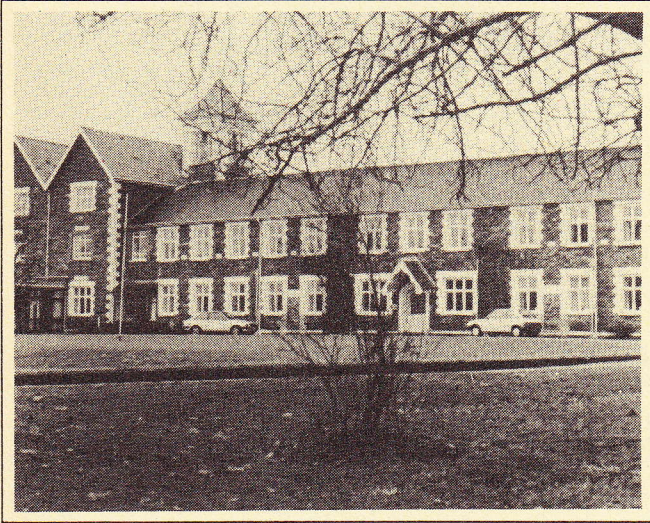
Last year "Operation Eyesore" was a Civic Trust initiative, this was taken up enthusiastically by many voluntary groups and local authorities everywhere, 'Heritage Outlook' the Civic Trust's bi-monthly journal ran a competition sponsored by British Telecom inviting its local amenity societies to nominate an eyesore and improve it within "The Week". The result was a collection of remarkable initiatives in town and country: streams were unclogged, fencing renewed, soggy paths made walkable with chippings and gravel, nature reserves improved and sign-posted, wild flower gardens created and a splendid new garden made out of a dump on a station platform.

Newspapers took up the theme, challenging readers to nominate their own local eyesore.

Maybe our schools will take up the challenge this year. Children could decide on an area to tackle, this in turn could lead to making a map of the area, identifying the historical, geographic or architectural merits, discussion on how to improve it, linking up with another school on the project might be worth considering. However, the main thing is being aware of your environment and wanting to enhance it, but more importantly sustaining this interest every week throughout the year.

Snapshots from the Workhouse

by *Stephen Price*



Relations were allowed to visit between 10a.m. and noon on Thursdays, but were not permitted to bring gifts for the inmates. as a result, "luxury" items were brought to the Workhouse clandestinely, as an extract from the Master's diary dated 3rd April 1842 shows:

"The master begs leave to state that Robert Sandford and John George were seen throwing Money and Tobacco over the wall into the yard on yesterday".

The guardians had complete control over the coming and going of inmates and visitors, refusing permission to leave as often as granting it. Hence the Master records on the 1st January 1844 that:

"James Feeney (no 461) aged 14 years, Lislane Division, ran away on Saturday, he left his clothes in the Hospital yard and went away naked".

Punishment for "misdeeds" was severe, for on the 10th of April 1842:

"Maria Ross and Ellen Stuart were confined for one hour in the Refractory Ward yesterday evening for climbing onto the Wall to converse with people outside the premises".

Destroying one's clothes and disobeying orders led to longer, often solitary, confinement.

It can, however, be seen that the Master occasionally indulged his charges; for on the 25th September, 1842:

"The Master also took the liberty of allowing of an eighth of an ounce of tea and half an ounce of sugar to the Infirmary Nurse each morning during her attendance on John Boyd and the same quantity on the morning after he died to each of the two women who assisted in putting him in the coffin".

A broad spectrum of detail concerning day-to-day existence in the Workhouse is available, much more than this article has room for. The regime of this Institution may shock the modern reader, but it must be borne in mind that the Workhouse stood against a backdrop of appalling poverty, disease and destitution that was the norm for a significant sector of the 19th century (and indeed, 20th century) Irish society.

With the current emphasis on tourist development in our area, should we not take advantage of Workhouse material to create a living museum on the subject that would be unique in the British Isles? Surely we should capitalise on, rather than forget, these local Institutions which all still functioned within living memory.

The author wishes to thank Mr. W Hull of Limavady for invaluable help in compiling this article.

Near the Health Centre on Limavady's Scroggy Road, a small plot of land lies fenced off, surrounded by trees. The observant passerby might notice a flash of colour from the plastic bouquet of flowers at the foot of a small brass plaque which is illegible from more than a yard away. Otherwise, there is nothing to hint at the number of men, women and children buried at that spot. For the plaque reads:

"This consecrated plot was used as a Workhouse burial ground between the years 1841-1931. The public are earnestly requested to refrain from trespassing or dumping rubbish".

Subsequent to the passing of the English Poor Laws of the date 1830's, Ireland (and indeed mainland Britain) was divided into a number of Unions, each with its own Workhouse. Institutions were established locally at Derry, Limavady, Ballymoney and Coleraine.

Constructed in 1841 in a Tudoresque design, Limavady's Workhouse can still be examined by the casual visitor, for it is now the Roe Valley Hospital. The Reception Block, Main Building, the "Idiots Wards" and most of the yard wall are all still standing. From its inception, the whole project was carefully costed by the Board of Guardians, made up of powerful local landowners. Surviving records make illuminating reading for the student of Social History. For example, it can be seen that the entire Workshop Infirmary was kitted out for £3.4s.6d. whereas a roll of green biazé for the boardroom table was purchased for £1.10s.

The pauper's diet was set by Poor Law Commissioners at an absolute minimum "To discourage able-bodied idlers". A typical weekday menu reads as follows:

Breakfast, 9.00 am: 6oz of oatmeal, half pint of buttermilk

Dinner, 2.00 pm: 3lbs of potatoes, half pint of buttermilk

Supper, 3oz of oatmeal, made into gruel

THE CITY'S ANCIENT PAST

by *Brian Lacey*

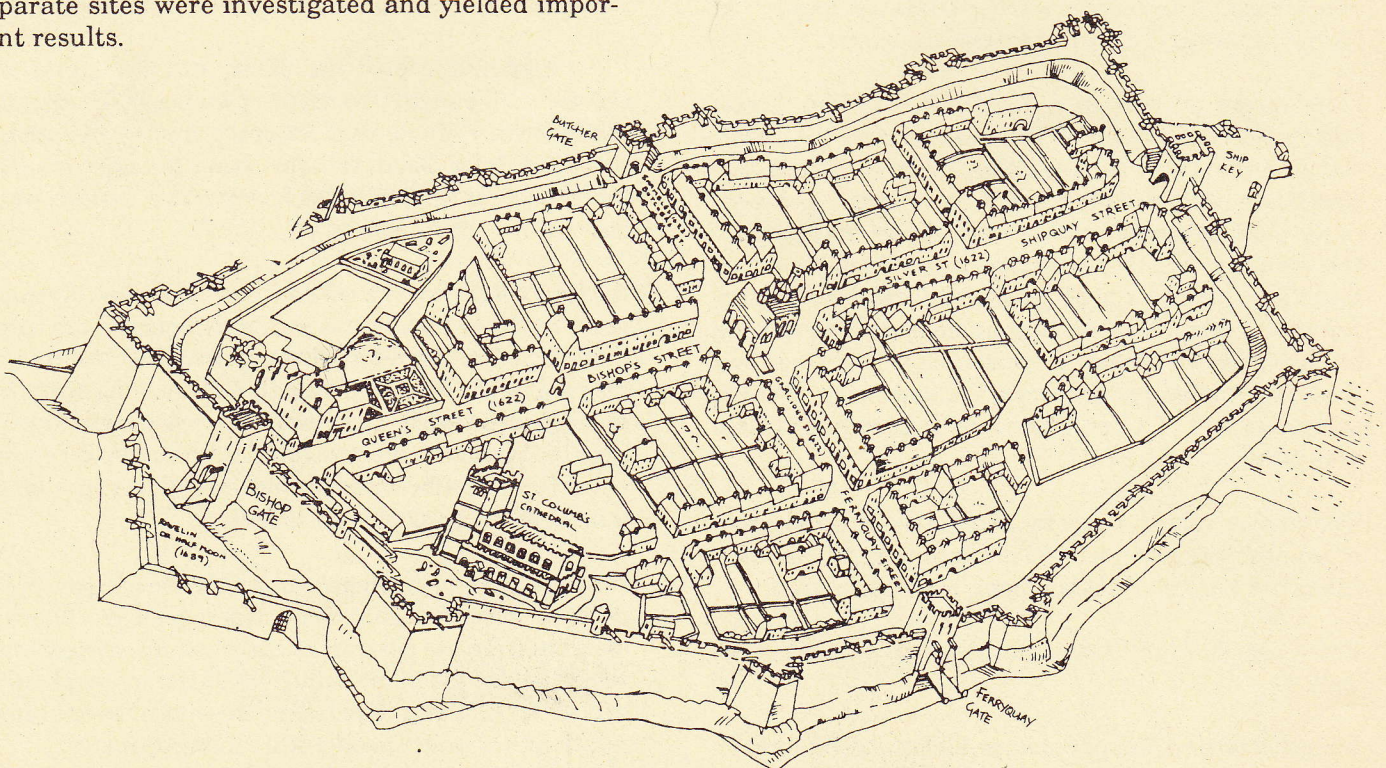
Derry has been continuously inhabited since at least the sixth century, when the ancient monastery was founded. There is evidence to suggest that even before that the site of the city was in use as some kind of tribal fortification, and also, possibly, as a place of pagan religious ritual. Not very much of this very long history and 'prehistory' is reflected above ground today, although some traces are likely to be buried below, in the soil. The city we now live in, although it is indeed very 'historic', was built for the most part in the 19th and 20th centuries. Very little of the 18th century Georgian architecture survives (only about 6 houses), and even the important 17th century, when the plantation city of Londonderry was founded, is represented today and only by the city walls and by St. Columb's cathedral.

For these reasons, among many others, it was (and is) important that archaeological investigations should have been planned for the city. During the five years from 1976 until 1980 a number of so-called rescue and salvage excavations were conducted here. This was a period of great change in the centre of the city. New housing was being put up in the Long Tower area and the Fountain; many sites inside the walls became vacant through bomb damage; and the huge area subsequently built on for the Richmond Centre was lying derelict and abandoned. In all, over twenty separate sites were investigated and yielded important results.

Literally hundreds of thousands of archaeological objects were found, although in this context an object might not mean more than a piece of broken pottery. However, it is just humble objects which allow us to reconstruct the past lives of people during periods when written documentation was scarce or even non-existent. The archaeological material recovered between 1976 and 1980 is still being studied. Eventually a report of the findings will be published and the objects will go on display (some of them are currently on show in the special Siege of Derry exhibition in Butcher Street).

Because the excavations concentrated on sites inside the walls, and immediately outside them, the material recovered was all found to date to the period of the plantation and later i.e. the 17th and 18th centuries. Nevertheless, research into identifying sites connected with the city's more ancient history was also carried out and in the future excavations can be carried out at these as they become available.

Nowadays all building developments which are likely to impede on ancient sites are checked out in advance by the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch of the DOE. We can expect that in the years to come further excavations will unearth more exciting evidence of the city's ancient past.



TEMPLEMOYLE AGRICULTURAL SEMINARY

1827 - 1866

by *A.J. Malley FRICS, MRAC*

In 1821 the most important landowners and farmers came together to form the North West Society in Londonderry. This was to be the first Agricultural Society of its type in Ulster and preceded the North East Society by five years, which was later to become the Royal Ulster in 1854. This Society in Londonderry was made up of many forward thinking people and in 1823 the idea of having an agricultural seminary in the area was first mooted.

The group who launched the idea studied other places of agricultural education to find the best format and a school in Bannow, Co. Wexford was looked at, together with a school for agricultural in what was then Prussia, but the model school that they settled for was the school founded in 1796 at Hofwyl, near Berne in Switzerland founded by M. de Fellenberg. This school had two groups of students i.e. the sons of gentlemen farmers and the sons of tenant farmers studying all aspects of agriculture, horticulture etc. This was to be the model for the Seminary to be constructed near the village of Muff (now Eglinton) in 1826 and opened in 1827. The money to construct the building, which stands at Templemoyle, was raised by Members raising shares and according to the number of shares they had they could send so many students. There was also a fee of £10 per annum for each student. The sons of gentlemen

were to attend the nearby part of the Seminary housed in the house now known as 'Foyle Park'. These students were to pay the fee of £60 per annum. This part of the Seminary was to prove unsuccessful and it was closed down in under a year.

This main part of the Seminary was to continue for many years as the premier agricultural seminary in Ireland and students came to it from all over Ireland, including some from England and Scotland. During its life up to 1866 the Seminary had up to one thousand students, who dispersed all over the world and into many branches of agriculture, horticulture and estate management. The students were to study agriculture both in theory and in practice as the farm covered some 160 acres and the farm buildings round the main building were up to date for the time and still stand today.

During its life many famous people visited the Seminary, including William Makepeace Thackeray, who wrote an account of his visit in his book 'The Irish Sketch Book' published in 1843. A later visitor, who was to have a more lasting effect on the area was Lord Eglinton, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who visited the Seminary in August 1858 and while there the locals petitioned him to change the name of their village from Muff to Eglinton, as it had been confused with Muff, Co. Donegal. This he agreed to do and so the village has been named such ever since. Lord Eglinton had visited the Seminary in its hey day but with the rise of other schools and colleges in Ireland and it was to close its doors in 1866. The building that remains today is really only one wing of the former Seminary as the remainder was pulled down and was purchased by a member of the Allingham family who still owns it today. It is now been converted into a private nursing home and so this important building in the area has been saved for the future by sensitive restoration combined with modern use thus bringing life back to the building.



A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ORIGINAL SEMINARY AT TEMPLEMOYLE



SPACE means Special Programme of Action for our community Environment. A voluntary group established in March 1988 SPACE wished to promote environmental awareness and concern through the community in the Derry area.

COMMUNITY TECHNICAL AID

One aspect of this was to provide specialist or technical advice to local communities on environmental issues and topics. The idea of an "Environmental Advice Clinic" on the lines of a Citizens or Legal Advice Bureau was proposed. The provision of advice and technical assistance (such as landscape design, feasibility studies, planning advice) is carried out by groups called "Community Technical Aid Centres"

SPACE put forward to Derry City Council for funding for such an agency. This proposal outlined specific projects which SPACE could carry out.

One of these was to design, with community consultation, 30 acres of recreational land owned by the City Council at Top of the Hill in the Waterside.

Derry City Council agreed to this in November 1989 SPACE - Community Technical Aid (C.T.A.) was thus established with funding from the City Councils Community Services budget.

Office, surveying, draughting equipment, and research material were purchased by SPACE.

**THE TOP OF THE HILL COMMUNITY PARK
COMMUNITY ARCHITECTURE**

The approach to The Top of the Hill project is concerned as much with community involvement and consultation as with the production of a final set of layout plans, drawings, specifications and reports of the proposed Park.

This approach reflects the community (or consumer) orientation of SPACE and Community Technical Aid Centres.

It has been termed "community planning" or "community architecture".

SPACE - C.T.A. - RESOURCES

SPACE C.T.A. staff include one Chartered Town Planner, two part-time technician architects and a secretary.

A site office has been established in the Top of the Hill

community centre. From this office the site is being surveyed, designed and publicised. This office is readily accessible to the community in the area.

Community consultation has so far involved media and general publicity, liaison with community groups, involvement of schools in site surveys and model making, leafleting and a 100% sample questionnaire to all households in the catchment area.

In addition an international expert on childrens play, Mr Peter Heseltine, invited by SPACE, has agreed to come to the city to give a seminar on play.

The park design will be completed by early March.

IMPLEMENTATION

As part of the overall philosophy, emphasis is continually directed to the actual implementation of the Park development.

One aspect of this will be the planting of 10,000 good-sized broadleaved trees in March and November 1989.

These trees will be generously grant aided by the Forestry Service of The Department of Agriculture.

Each pupil in schools in the catchment area will be given a personal tree to plant. Residential streets or courts will be involved in planting blocks of trees.

Assistance will also be provided by other groups such as the Conservation Volunteers.

In this way, the trees will be less likely to be vandalised or damaged.

The landscape framework for the Park will be created in a very short time. The Park will be seen to be developed thus not letting down people's expectations or enthusiasm for it.

EFFECTIVENESS

The design and layout of the completed park should reflect what local communities desire to meet their leisure and recreational needs.

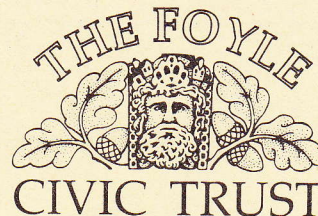
Designing this park with and for the "end - user" in mind, should result in it being more effective and successful when developed. With on-going community involvement in it, it should be thought of as a local community resource whereby it would be utilised and not vandalised nor neglected.

Seamus Canavan

Top of the Hill Community Park Design Office

Tel: 47841

INISHOWEN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



The Inishowen Environmental Group was formed in January 1988, and is based in Carndonagh, at the centre of the Inishowen peninsula in north Donegal.

To date the group has:

- * Organised a major clean up in the area, winning a Zanussi award of £3000 for its efforts.
- * Organised two tree planting weeks during which over 5,000 trees were planted in Inishowen.
- * Is currently collecting ringpull cans for recycling - a number of schools are involved in this project.
- * Given a series of environmental talks to over 40 schools. The schools were also presented with books and trees to plant in their grounds.
- * Organised a walk for the rain forest in 1988. Hosted John Seed the Australian environmentalist who spoke on the rainforest in Carndonagh, attracting his largest audience in the Republic.
- * Lobbied on local environmental issues.
- * Promoted the use of environmentally friendly products; offering them for sale at occasions such as fetes, agricultural shows etc.
- * Gave an environmental awareness course in Derry supported by a weekly column in the Derry Journal.

PLANS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

1. To initiate a glass recycling scheme based on the public dump in Carndonagh.
3. To continue our educational programme with the schools in our area and with schools in Derry.

OFFICERS OF THE GROUP

Chairperson - Bev Doherty, Galwilly, Glen togher, Carndonagh, 074 - 74581

Research Officer - Evleen Harvey, Magheramore, Carndonagh, 074 - 74579

Secretary - Bridget McGonagle, Carrick, Carndonagh.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

"The Foyle Civic Trust" belongs to you!

Please become a member and have a say in the Future of the Derry area.

The minimum **MEMBERSHIP RATES** per annum are:

Full	£ 5.00
Concessionary (Unwaged/students/OAP's)	£ 2.50
Community groups	£ 10.00
Corporate	£100.00

Just complete the simple form below and return to:

THE FOYLE CIVIC TRUST
62a NORTHLAND ROAD
LONDONDERRY
BT48 0AL

Tel: (0504) 267565

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

HOME TEL:

WORK TEL:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

SUM ENCLOSED: £

(cheque/postal order if posted made out to THE FOYLE CIVIC TRUST)

CIVIC TRUST INTERESTS:

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.....

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ANY FURTHER DONATIONS TO THE FOYLE CIVIC TRUST WOULD BE GRATEFULLY WELCOME.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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