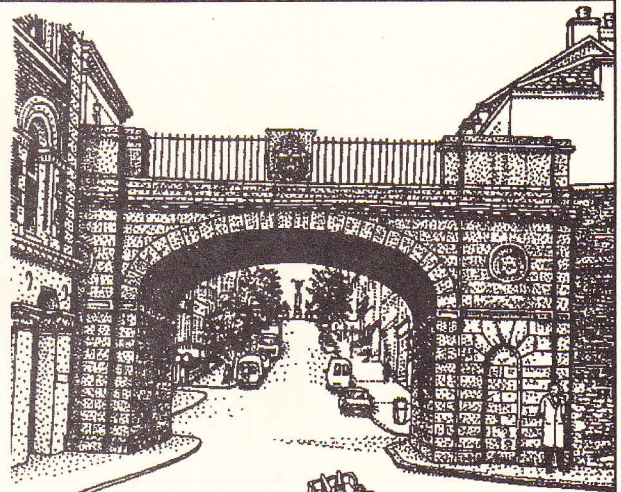
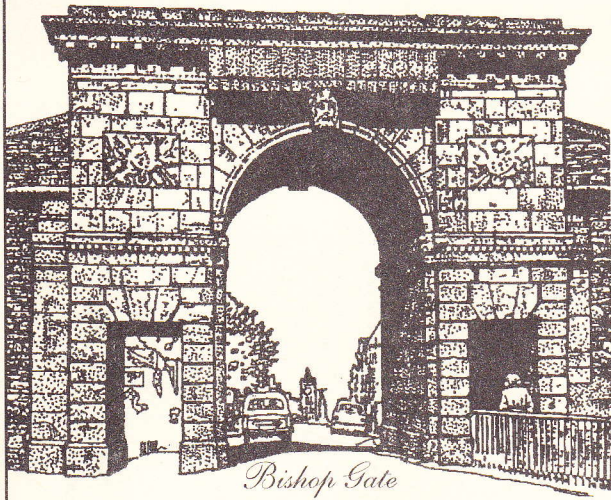
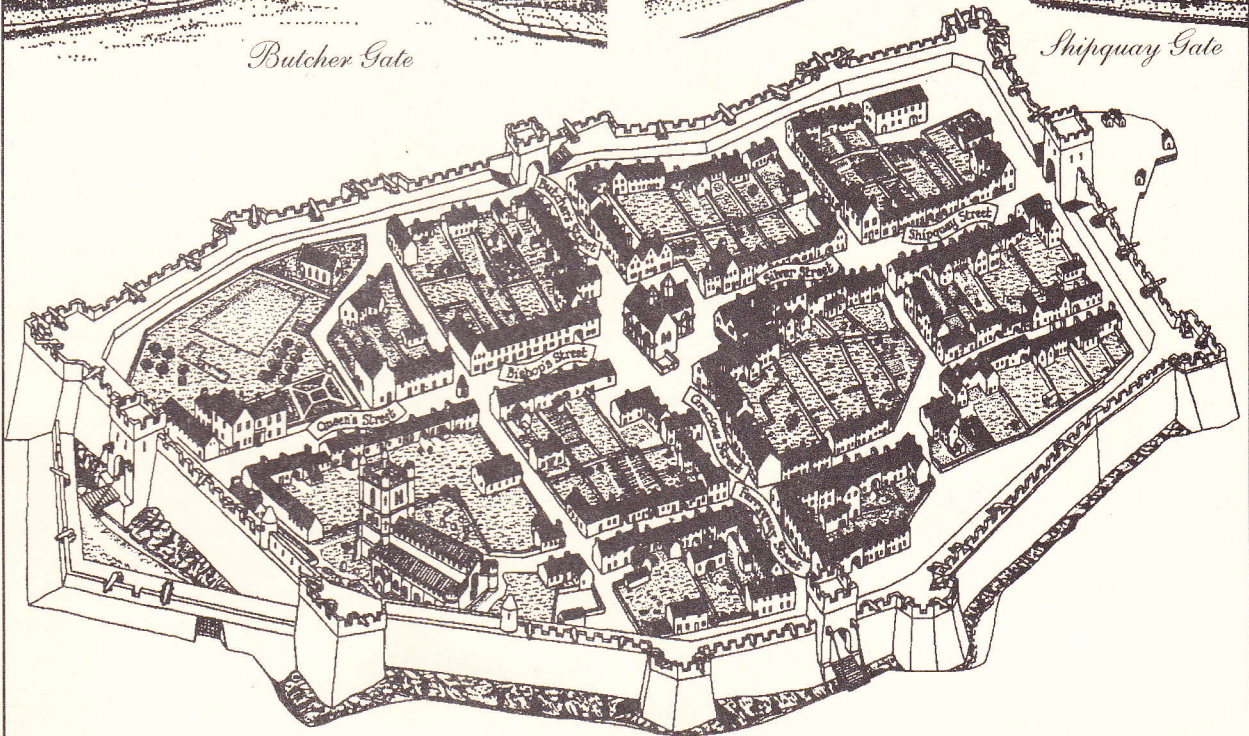




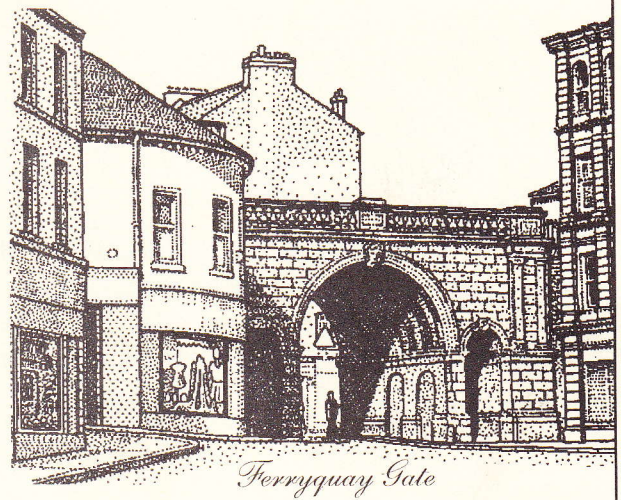
*Butcher Gate*



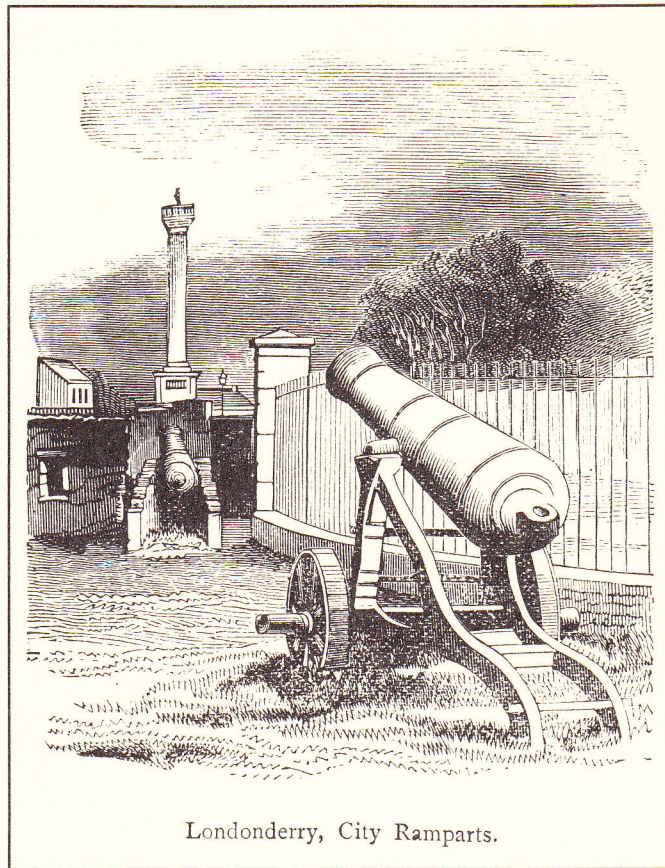
*Shipquay Gate*



*Bishop Gate*



*Ferryquay Gate*



Londonderry, City Ramparts.

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# FOREWORD

Derry is an extraordinary city. Derry has a tremendous community spirit and friendliness having produced many citizens of international renown. It has been voted as being in the top ten cities of its kind in the UK by the Civic Trust in London.

Frank McGuinness, the famous playwright has said of Derry - "The strange thing about Derry is its natural beauty. Even at the worst of its bother, its natural setting somehow protected it, and I still think it's the loveliest of Irish cities".

The question is do Derry people care enough about the city as a place to ensure that Derry remains the loveliest of Irish cities? There has been a massive programme of development over the past fifteen years in Derry. This is to be welcomed - anything that adds to the social and economic growth of the city is to be encouraged. However, surely we should be selective about how change takes place, surely we should manage this change. The more development takes place, the greater the need to establish what should be protected and cherished, which changes will add rather than take away. Changes aren't always for the better!

Who would have thought in 1980 that the following developments would take place:-  
*The Richmond Centre; the Foyle Bridge; the Craft Village; the O'Doherty Fort; Enterprize Zones; the Central Library; Pedestrianisation; Schools; Churches; Health Centres; Improved approach roads; Roundabouts and more roundabouts; the upgrading of the City Walls; over 6,500 new houses; the Foyle Hospice; demolition of the multi-storey Rossville Street flats; new office blocks; expansion at Magee College and student accommodation buildings; district shopping centres; Housing Association schemes; the museum; relocation of the port of Lisahally; a myriad of DOE Urban Renewal Programmes; major improvements at the local airport; the Heritage Centre; the New Golf Course; Science & Technology Park; Multi-storey carparks; New Cinemas and the New City Council Offices and Foyle side Shopping Centre.*

Not all of the above schemes have been built to a good standard or have been sensitive to local community needs and not all add to the character of the city.

In the next fifteen years, we are likely to see the following developments :-

Hotels and tourist facilities, a theatre, development for the Meadowbank site, etc. consequences flowing from the imminent Area Plan for 1996 - 2011, and who knows what else? What better place for the Millennium Fund to invest in a major flagship project than in Derry - It's up to Derry to come up with the idea and apply for the funding. One thing is for sure, the development list for the next fifteen years is likely to be even longer than the list of the last fifteen years.

Derry is fortunate in having to deal with the problems of change; change is evidence of a living, vibrant, growing city.

This is where The Foyle Civic Trust can help. Foyle Civic Trust has, within its membership, experts in various areas of the built environment and people who are extremely knowledgeable in the history of the city and its environs.

The aim of the Foyle Civic Trust is to contribute to the improvement of the built and physical environment, to record, promote and enhance our understanding and preservation of our heritage through educational activities, research and through publications. The pace of development taking place is furious and The Foyle Civic Trust needs more members to tackle the many challenges and projects that are in the pipeline.

If you want to participate in influencing how the city will grow, then complete the application form (elsewhere in this Review) for membership.

We look forward to meeting any new members.

*James Sammon,*  
Chairman

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# THE CITY CENTRE

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## THE PERPETUAL CHALLENGE

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... *Jim Foster*

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Whatever its size, the successful city survives by continuous, vigorous and creative response to the myriad challenges thrown up by the irresistible torrent of change surging through the modern urbanised world. It eagerly seizes every opportunity to adapt and develop in ways which will secure a more dynamic and prosperous future without forgetting those essential parts of its history which give it its personality and sense of place.

City centres exist to serve the current functions of their cities and the needs of their people – economic, social, cultural and administrative. Since these constantly change, the successful city centre re-invents and renews itself accordingly.

It knows that its survival depends on envisaging a viable future and successfully organising itself to achieve and accommodate this. Stagnation and decline is otherwise inevitable. However, it also knows the value of retaining and respecting key links with the past without which its knowledge and appreciation of its own urban history is diminished.

As visitors to other cities, the lasting impressions we take away are often shaped by our images of their centres. The purpose and spirit of the city and its people are reflected there in so many tangible ways. As citizens of our own city we understand how much our civic and even personal esteem has been affected by the condition of our city centre. Its renaissance of recent years has uplifted city and people, creating new confidence, hope for the future and a determination to realise it.

The recovery of our city centre from its nadir of dereliction and depression has been a remarkable and heartening experience. The

already daunting task of renewing a richly diverse and historic city centre, albeit one which had changed little in essentials since the turn of the century, was made infinitely more difficult by the events of the 1970s decade. The campaign of destruction by bomb and fire then waged ruined much of its physical fabric, devastated its economic and social vitality and crippled its renewal for years.

On top of this enormous extra burden the centre of Derry has had to respond to many of the pressures for change arising in every city in recent decades. The local form in which these manifested themselves were presaged in the 1968 Londonderry Area Plan. There is space here to touch only on a few:

- The backlog of refurbishment, improvement and replacement needed throughout a building stock spanning three centuries in age.
- The inexorable rise in private and commercial vehicle ownership demanding more city centre road space, service access and car parking with a greatly improved urban road network including a second river crossing.
- The radical changes in retailing with new patterns and standards of trading, premises, shopping habits and customer expectation.
- The sweeping change in the structure and organisation of industry, much of it no longer viable in antiquated, inaccessible city centre sites and causing it to seek the freedom of extensive sites and modern buildings elsewhere.
- The accelerating change in the provision of public administration, health, education and other social services causing

long established buildings and sites to be abandoned and new facilities created.

The epic drama of how the city centre so effectively met these formidable challenges is not yet over. While much has been achieved more remains to be done. The principal agents of change working in various powerful partnerships, formal and informal, have been:

- **Government**, working mainly through the auspices of the Department of the Environment. Targeting through planning, roads, comprehensive development, environmental improvement and Urban Development Grant, the Department has assembled land, promoted major developments, transformed amenity and supported a multitude of private schemes of development and refurbishment. The Department's role has been critical in initiating, co-ordinating and financially under-pinning activity across the whole spectrum of renewal.
- **Private Sector**, investing private funds in hundreds of property development and refurbishment projects, supported by Urban Development Grant where justified. Projects have ranged from modest restoration schemes to new multi-million pounds comprehensive schemes forming major new city centre landmarks and activity focii. The investment of so much private funding has been absolutely essential for the continuing present and future commercial viability of the city centre.
- **Inner City Trust**, applying ambitious community inspired action enabled by funding from Government, European, International Fund for Ireland, Charitable Trust and other sources. Since 1981 the Trust has transformed whole blocks of the Walled City creating important new buildings, saving and renewing many older buildings and introducing new themes, uses and development methods.
- **Derry City Council**, contributing primarily through its tourism, amenity,



cultural and promotional programmes and projects, especially the development of the splendid Civic Museum. As the elected representative body of the city the support and participation of the Council has been of fundamental importance and value.

All of these agencies together with others are currently engaged in the building or planning of many other important schemes likely to bear fruit within the next few years. Priorities include infilling of the now relatively few remaining vacant sites, the development of a hotel and theatre, the restructuring and re-use of the remaining prominent vacant factory buildings, the development of key riverfront sites and the greater realisation of the amenity potential of the river itself.

The centre is steadily reclaiming its role as the heart of the city and essential engine of economic and social development and employment creation. Its appearance, with all its splendid attributes, is increasingly a source of shared pride and enjoyment. The image of the city it conveys to the visitor is surely now a positive one. Let us all contribute to the continuing challenge of creating and sustaining a handsome, successful city centre in a handsome, successful city – bearing in mind of course that the task can have no end!

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## /// A SHIRT FACTORY REVISITED ///

..... Joan Pyne

The Foyle Civic Trust, celebrated and participated in "Heritage Open Days '94" by inviting members of the public to join them in a visit to the City Factory. Buildings, especially those not normally open to the public, opened their doors in twentyfour European countries on September 10th and 11th, 1994. "Heritage Open Days '94 provided access to properties of historical, architectural, cultural and industrial importance throughout Europe.

As part of that programme, the City Shirt Factory in Queen Street / Patrick Street opened its doors to the public on Saturday, 10th September. The City Factory was one of the first shirt factories to be built in Derry and it began operations in 1863. It is among the few shirt factories from the last century that are still in operation today. Some of the former factories have gone and, sadly, many other examples of local victorian industrial architecture have been allowed to decay and fall into a state of disrepair. The City Factory, like most other buildings built for a similar purpose in the last century and early this century, is a very fine example of nineteenth century industrial architecture. How fortunate we are in Derry to have such fine buildings.

A large number of people turned out for the "Heritage Open Day". Some of those who came along had previously worked in this or other shirt factories and appreciated the opportunity of a visit to an old workplace. Surprise was expressed by some of the people who came along, at what little change had taken place. For example, the basic cutting and sewing skills were still done by individual workers. New technology had also been introduced, but only in limited areas of shirt production. One woman visitor said that as a young girl employed in the factory she hated her work, but now in later life, she enjoys sewing. The proportions, lay out

and size of the large work areas in the factory remain unchanged, with a large part of the roof glazed to let more light into that part of the building where the patterns are produced. Other visitors came along out of a sense of curiosity, as they had always wanted to see the inside of a shirt factory and this was their only opportunity. One older man was especially delighted to be there, as his father had worked in the City Factory one hundred and twelve years ago for one year. The experience of seeing the factory, in many cases with its original features intact e.g. floor boards, pillars, ceilings, steps, doors etc., created an element of excitement. Here was a building that was still performing the function for which it was created over one hundred and thirty years ago. It has a feeling of history and continuity which is impossible to recreate in present-day heritage centres.

Happily the City Factory is still being used to perform the function for which it was built in 1863. However, this cannot be said for other shirt factories of the same period. Many have left no physical mark on the city and are only mentioned in stories or in printed accounts. Others have survived and remind us on a daily basis of their existence. They are an integral part of the history and the folklore of this proud city, for good or bad. The recent suggestions by Michael Hegarty, and Eamonn Monaghan, both members of the North West Architects Association, in relation to the future of disused shirt factories, are to be welcomed. The proposals they put forward are not new but they would appear to be falling on deaf ears as far as some members of the local authority are concerned. These are structurally sound buildings which could in many ways, be adapted to imaginative and interesting changes, as has been the case elsewhere. These changes could include conversion to

provide accommodation, both for the private and public sector, shopping centres, car parks, or hotels. Alternatively, these buildings could be used by Magee College or the North West Institute of Further and Higher Education for educational purposes.



If no immediate use can be found for these buildings in the short term, it is important that we preserve them for future use. A certain percentage of the money earmarked for the inner city renewal in North-

ern Ireland should be put aside for projects that have a bias towards conservation and the re use of our older buildings. A good roof, to stop rain penetration, is essential if these structures are to survive. This makes economic sense. Tourism is only in its infancy in Northern Ireland. Visitors do not come here to see supermarkets, car-parks or new buildings - unless they are very good - which is not always the case in Derry. Instead they want to see a city that reflects in its buildings those historical associations for which it is renowned. They give the city that special quality which distinguishes it from the others. If these noble structures are allowed to decay we may not have the opportunity of visiting many of them in the future.



Plate 82.



James Fisher sculp.

T. Newby R. S. Pinner.

SOUTH-EAST PROSPECT OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF LONDON-DERRY, IRELAND.



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# THE CHOIR VESTRY

From *The Cathedral* ..... by SAM BURNSIDE

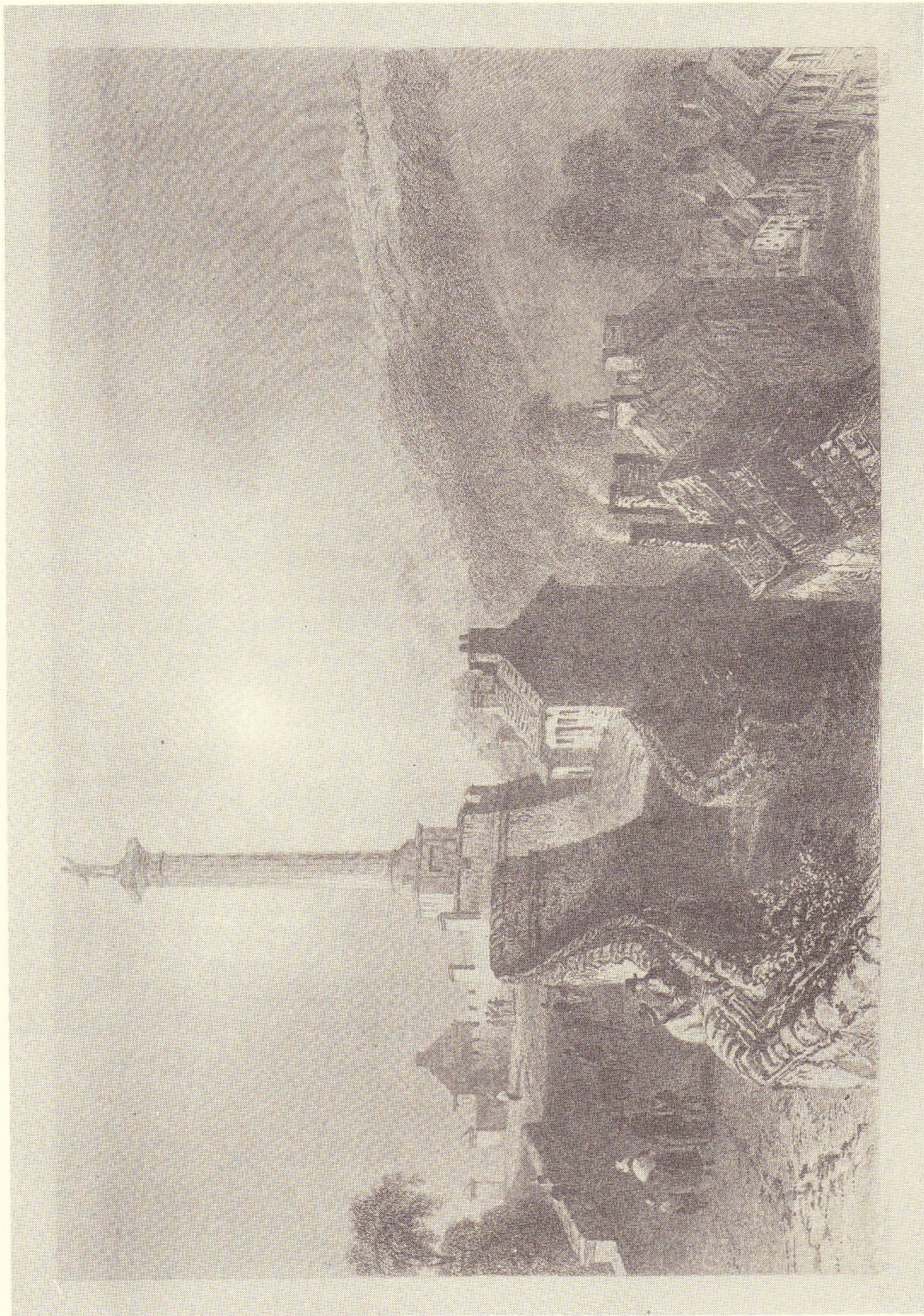
*Outside the door lies John Hempton, of this City,  
A man who lived by ink and words proclaiming now In chiselled Letters,  
'Brief Life is here our portion, Brief Sorrow, Short Lived Care'.  
Best leave him to his earned*

*Peace and come into the cool Choir Vestry were utility  
Has quarry tiled the floor, green-tiled the wall, has set  
Up two wooden benches as plain seating, has placed  
A hand towel next the white sink with its one cold tap.*

*The light that seeps like frost between the netted lead  
Is as glazed as the sheen that falls from a corpse-candle.  
Its fluorescence as opaque as a northern winters dawn.  
Its lucidity an invitation to jettison all that is  
Not certain. Shut fast the gate. Repair the Wall.  
Burnish the black cannon. Kindle a naked light;  
Day and night illuminate truth; the one truth  
That appears clear and vivid, even in moonlight.*

*Purpose is thrust into form. Derry's gates are shut  
Firm. The walls of Jerusalem are raised up.  
The Foyle wills itself a blue lagoon complete with  
Two Ships a-sailing, always, under sky-blue skies  
A crimson flag is cemented into the blue sky:  
Both hang over Donegal's undulating mountains  
Competing with white puff-ball clouds for what  
space is left. Around the bright heads of the red,  
white and blue defenders.*

*By twilight, by the light of the half moon, a fact  
Light as thistle-down creeps in over the tiled floor  
Stretches a revealing mulch over the lucid whiteness  
of the sink, inviting the light-headed to dance  
On the polished floor, tempting the light-minded to tip  
Hats before images dulled in the black-backed mirror.  
Moon-glazed, the form and colour  
of text and crest dissolve.  
Outside, the chiselled letters fill with rain-water.*



Derry Walls 1842

# DERRYS WALLS



Derry is unique in that it is the only city in Ireland which has preserved its walls. The walls, therefore offer a unique marketing opportunity in promoting Derry as a tourist destination in its own right.

Derry's walls, if the security situation permits the opening of security gates, have vast potential as a tourist trail highlighting Derry's fascinating history. There is a tremendous story to be told both in the building of these walls and in the events they have witnessed. There is a need for subtle interpretation of this history to visitors to our city. I don't even feel there is a need for an expensive purpose-built centre, visitors should be encouraged to get out and explore the walls by foot. I do feel there should be a recognised starting point for a visitor planning to walk the walls together with a recommended direction in which to proceed. (It is immaterial whether it be clockwise or anticlockwise).

Illustrative storyboards explaining the history or the walls, events which happened at a particular spot or an explanation of what can be seen from any particular vantage point should be set up on Derry's bastion.

I would suggest a recommended starting point at the steps by Magazine Gate. Not only is the excellent Tower museum sited here which tells the story of Derry in an illuminating way but there is easy access from a spacious Guildhall Square which naturally draws visitors towards the walls. Furthermore any tour of the walls which starts here will finish with a downhill walk!

I would propose the erection of story boards at 16 points on the one mile circuit of the walls and that they should be approached in an anticlockwise direction. These storyboards would, therefore, be read by the visitor in the following order:- 1. Towards Bastion (site) 2. Hangmans Bastion; Castle Gate; 4. Gunners Bastion; 5. Butchers Gate; 6. Royal Bastion; 7. Double Bastion; 8. Bishops Gate; 9. Church Bastion; 10. New Gate; 11. Ferry Bastion; 12. Ferryquay Gate; 13. Newgate Bastion; 14. Break in walls at Newmarket Street; 15. Water Bastion (site); 16. Shipquay Gate.

The story of the relief of Derry could be told at Shipquay Gate as this is where the supply ships docked which at Ferryquay Gate, where access to James II's forces was first refused, the background to the Siege could be illustrated. Where possible the story should be told visually with the bare minimum of text. Those visitors requiring detail would be encouraged to buy any

... Brian Mitchell

one of a number of excellent local publications on Derry's Walls and the Siege of Derry.

Other aspects of Derry's history should not be neglected. At Royal Bastion, where the crimson flag proclaiming "No Surrender" was hoisted, Derry's fine monastic history could be recounted. St. Augustines Church which bounds Royal Bastion is reputed to be the site of Derry's original 6th Century monastic settlement while Long Tower Chapel which can be seen in the distance marks the site of the 12th century Cathedral of "Templemore". Church Bastion would be the obvious location for information about St. Columb's Cathedral. At Double Bastion, where the famous "Roaring Meg" was located, the story of Derry's expansion beyond the city walls could be told. The mountains of Inishowen are clearly visible from here, the ancestral home of many who flooded Derry in the 19th Century to service its mini-industrial revolution. From Newgate Bastion fine views of the sweep of the river Foyle are evident. This would be an ideal location for a brief history of Derry Port, and of three centuries of emigration from the city.

Visitors should also be encouraged to break their journey to take a relaxing meal in one of the many pubs adjoining the walls. It would be a nice idea to be able to offer visitors the opportunity to hire personal stereos playing commentary in their native language as they walk the walls. The commentary should be pitched in such a way that it allows a leisurely stroll of the walls! The Tower Museum would be ideal as the location where stereos could be hired and where publications on the Walls and Derry's history could be purchased.

Finally an attractive brochure should be produced which would have the dual function of promoting the Walls and of identifying the starting point and the route of the Derry Walls experience!

# ULSTER'S PUGIN

## John O'Neill (1828 – 83) architect.

. . . . J.J.Tracey



**John O'Neill**

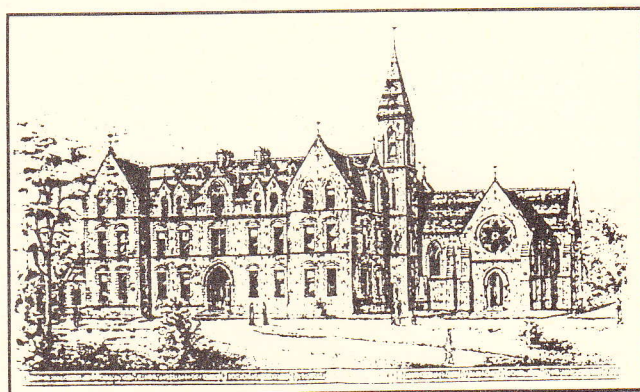
*(photograph) courtesy O'Neill family.*

Pugin (1812 – 52) postulated that the only architectural style to truly express christian values was the gothic mode. He little modified that view except to orchestrate his designs through early pointed, decorated and the perpendicular periods i.e. 11c to 15c. Pugin was an Englishman of great energy and conviction with considerable architectural influence, which extended to Ireland. He was introduced here c1838 by a commission for St. Peter's College chapel, Wexford,<sup>(1)</sup> later receiving many others from dioceses, parishes and convents. J. J. McCarthy (1817 – 82) dubbed Ireland's Pugin, fell under the spell of the Englishman's writings and building works and greatly adhered to his architectural philosophy though he did digress in lapses of Italian Romanesque notably in Thurles cathedral. John O'Neill was a more faithful

disciple being deflected once in a classical endeavour for St. Agatha's church, North William Street, Dublin, where he first put forward a medieval solution but the parish priest preferred a church echoing the chapel of the Irish College, Rome and his architect complied like many before and since.

John O'Neill was born in Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone, the son of a shopkeeper and the eldest of five children. His two younger brothers became members of the Passionist congregation, not without advantage to O'Neill. O'Neill began architectural practice in Belfast in the early 1860's and his first major commission was the completion of St. Peter's Church, Belfast minus its twin spires, when its priest architect and good friend of O'Neill retired from the project because of ill health. His practice expanded outside Belfast to all the diocese of Down and Connor and into those of Armagh, Derry, Dublin and Meath. He opened an office in Dublin in 1874 where his partner W. H. Byrne now resided having married a Dublin woman the previous year.

The practice depended mainly on ecclesiastical commissions and in some twenty years



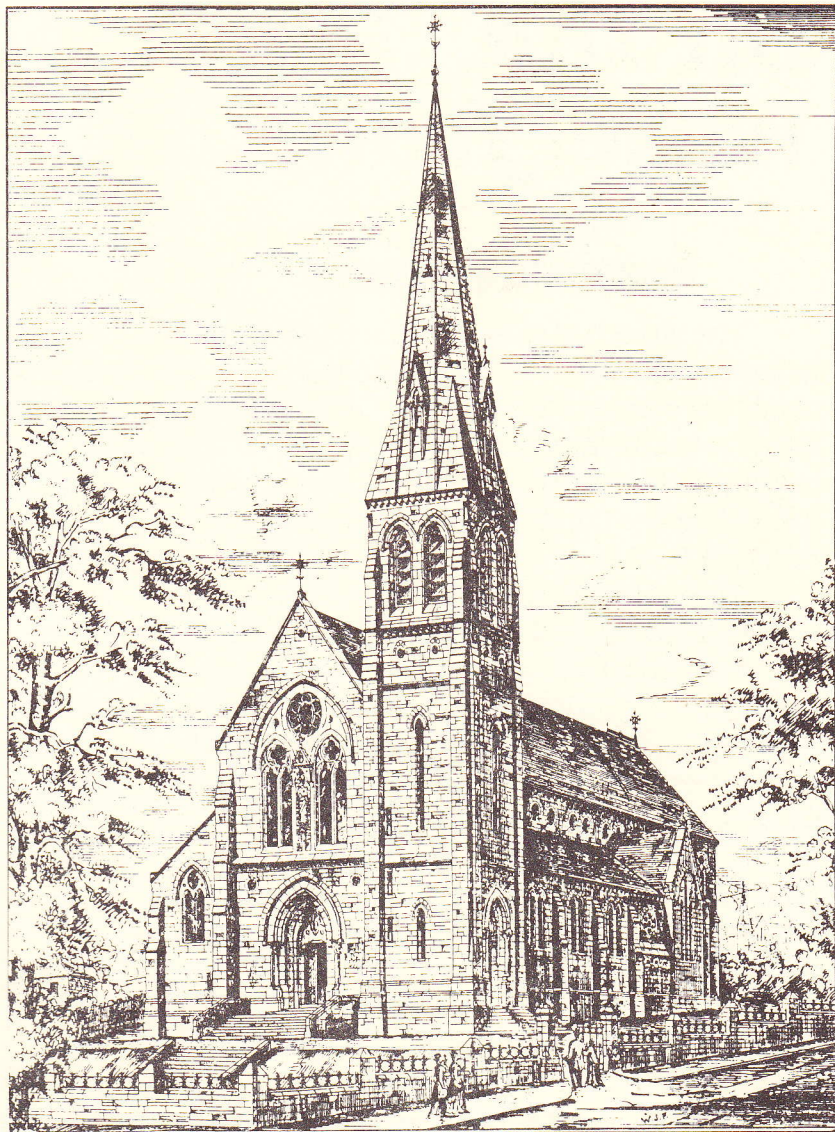
**Convent Ballyshannon (perspective)**  
*Irish Builder*

carried designs for forty churches, two colleges, seven convents, four asylums, one orphanage, thirteen presbyteries, thirteen schools, two banks, three warehouses, some speculative housing and other commercial work. In the dioceses of Armagh, Clogher, Derry and Raphoe, O'Neill carried out a number of interesting commissions beginning with a small one to enhance St. Finnian's catholic church, Convoey in 1866 and this was

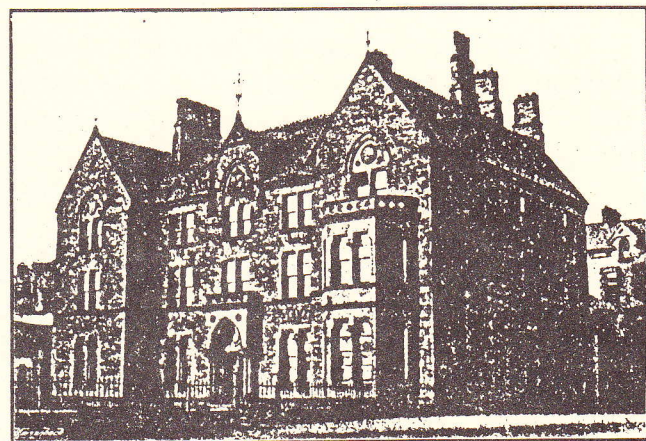
followed in 1867 with a robust design for St. Columba's, Doneyloup. After that came St. Agatha's, Clar, Co. Donegal, 1869; St. Mary's, Altinure, Co. Derry, 1870; St. Columba's, Drung, Inishowen, 1870; St. Michael's, Enniskillen, 1870; St. Mary's, Lavey, Co. Derry, 1872, St. Patrick's, Killygordon, 1872; St. Patrick's, Castlederg, 1874; Bishop's house and presbytery, St. Eugene's Cathedral, 1875, St. Columba's College Junior House and gate lodge, Derry, 1877; St. Joseph's, Glenullin, Co. Derry, 1878; St. Finian's, Falcarragh, 1878 with parochial house and school; church of the Assumption, Magherafelt, 1879; St. Catherine's Convent of Mercy, Ballyshannon, 1879; chapel of the Sacred Heart, Convent of Mercy, Strabane, 1879; St. Patrick's, Dungiven, 1883.

Stylistically, in church design, O'Neill adhered to the simplicity of Early English Gothic but he did not close his eyes to other gothic influences. In May, 1881, O'Neill's competition entry for the proposed new church of St. Peter's, Drogheda was placed first. This new church was to replace an earlier one by Francis Johnston and not without disputation. In his design O'Neill abandoned his predilection for first pointed gothic and produced a confident statement in thirteenth century French Gothic. The completed St. Peter's bustles with vigour, strength and dynamism – a fitting climax to what was a comparatively short life. He died, on a visit to London in May 1883. All his projects were not completed during his lifetime and invariably expensive items like spires waited several decades to crown their towers. Some of these spires followed O'Neill's original intentions as can be seen from extant perspective sketches, others show the aspirations of later designers. Mortimer H. Thompson, architect of Belfast, took over O'Neill's Belfast office which flourishes to this day.

(1) Stanton, P. *Pugin* 1971



**Church of Assumption, Magherafelt**  
(perspective) Irish Builder



**Bishop's house, St. Eugene's Cathedral**  
(photograph) *Annals of Derry*

# On the Waterfront

Mary McLaughlin

The stretch of river which snakes its way between the two bridges was the subject of a visual art competition entitled "On the Waterfront" recently launched by Foyle Civic Trust in conjunction with the Orchard Gallery and funded by the Londonderry Development Office, D.O.E. N.I.

The main purpose of the competition was to raise awareness of, and engender civic pride in our city. At the present time that particular area is undergoing many changes. Great, you might think, surely change is a sign of growth and development. Yes, but at what price? Do we need another Quayside store debacle? Through the competition we endeavoured to stimulate thought and debate e.g. on the vibrant past of the quayside, the bustling busy port Derry once was with the realisation that the description, busy seaport and vibrant past is definitely past. So what about the future; what do we want to see and do?

*Some of the questions raised were?*

Is this perhaps the time to extend the planting of trees? The city glimpsed through trees along the embankment would look quite attractive, with the church spires and stepped roofscapes clamouring for attention. The existing trees at Foyle park could be continued the entire route along the quay, especially in front of the Quayside development.

It is virtually impossible to walk across the road at present: What facilities do pedestrians require? Ornamental wrought iron foot bridges?

Is it time to introduce a cycle lane which would span the two bridges?

Activity on the river, what form should this take? Animation on the river is sadly non-existent. Could a ferry boat be re-introduced linking St. Columb's Park to the Guildhall.

Traffic congestion: how should we deal with this problem? Do we need to upgrade our public transport system? How?

Derry is a very hilly city, could we fore see

*Meadows trim with daisies pied,  
Shallow brooks, and rivers wide;  
Towers and battlements it sees  
Bosom'd high in tufted trees,  
Where perhaps some beauty lies,  
The cynosure of neighbouring eyes.*

JOHN MILTON, 1608-1674

cable cars operating by the millenium? How about a futuristic monorail system or even a waterbus.

The new city office building viewed from the river is quite impressive but there is very little space on the river frontage, it is just begging to be extended to incorporate a marina or a grand piazza cantilevered over the river.

The Meadowbank site comprises quite a sizeable parcel of land, will this site be developed imaginatively, will our city get quality housing to compare with other riverside towns, notably South St. Seaport in New York or the Albert Dock in Liverpool or even the controversial riverside development on the Thames at Richmond? The potential is there to create a development to attract tourists and citizens alike with riverside restaurant, hotel, conference facilities, housing, landscaped gardens, fountains etc. especially a development with an infusion of charm.

The important issue which the entrants had to address was: if all or any of the above suggestions ever come to fruition would they enhance the riverside?

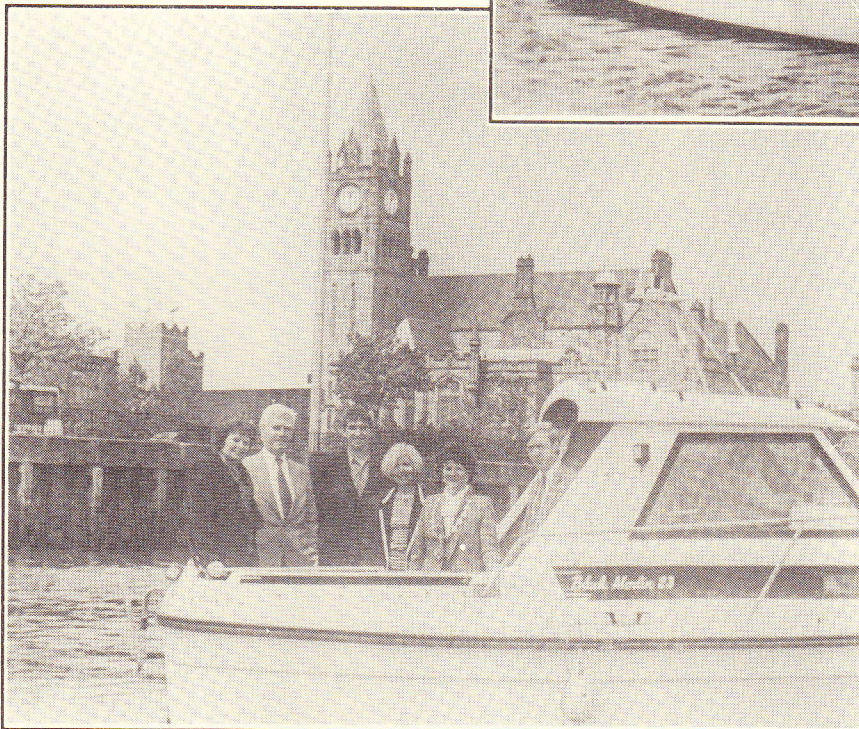
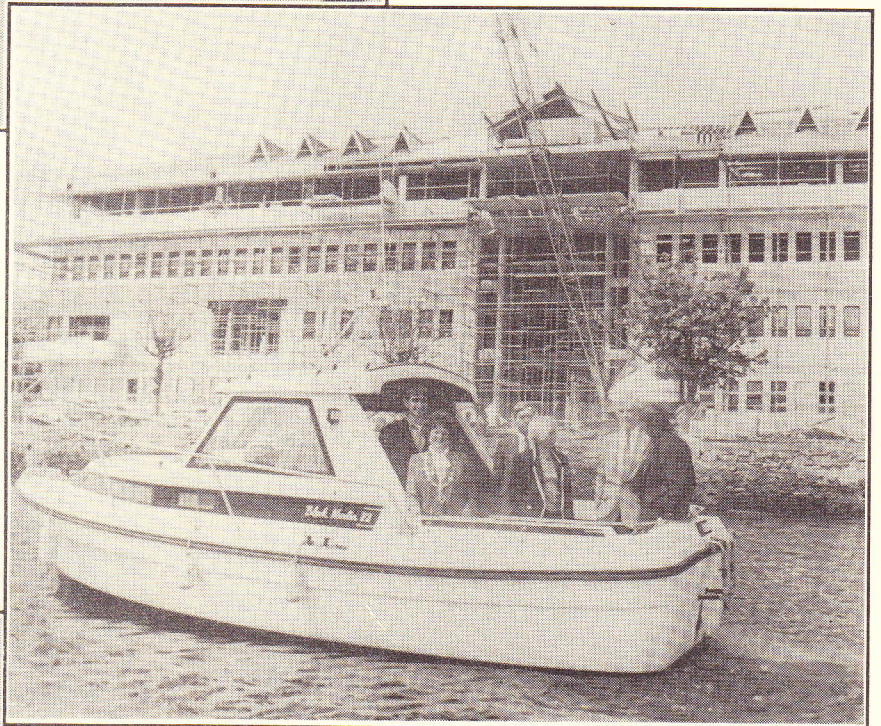
Most of the entries captured the sense of place, the excitement of a quayside and the real feeling of pride in our greatest asset, the river.

Some day, hopefully, in the not too distant future, people will throng both sides of the river to participate in watersports or as onlookers at boat races, fireworks displays etc. Will they have the facilities to enjoy those leisure pursuits.

Would any of the above suggestions qualify as a project celebrating the year 2000?

An exhibition of the entries was held in the Tower Museum.

Take a walk on the riverside soon and draw your own conclusions.



Photographs: Courtesy of WILLIE CARSON

# To Demolish or not to Demolish!

*Joan Pyne*

This article is loosely based on a submission made on behalf of the Foyle Civic Trust to Derry City Council's Planning Committee. The Trust objected, on the 6th April, 1994, to the proposals to demolish a listed building at No. 24 Hawkin Street, Londonderry. A largish red-brick building, with georgian proportions and a central flight of steps with railings, it is one of the most handsome buildings in Hawkin Street. This building is also known as "The Whitehall". The reason for its name may well be that the women who were inmates there ran a laundry in years gone by.

Described in the 1887 Derry Almanac and Directory (page 13) as the "Londonderry and North West of Ulster Female Penitentiary" (established 1829), the building is both architecturally and historically important. It was designed by John Guy Ferguson, one of Derry's most prominent nineteenth century architects, whose work included the Guildhall that was burned down in the early part of this century. He also designed the Tillies and Henderson and Welch Margetson shirt factories. His first building in Philadelphia, built in the 1850's is still used as an old peoples home.

On the 29th July 1862 Mr Robert Ferguson lodged a plan for a new building to house a woman's prison in Hawkins Lane with the Police and Markets Committee of the Londonderry City Council and received permission to do so. In February 1891, the name of the institution was changed to the Londonderry and North West of Ulster Home for Women. The patrons of the establishment included prominent people of the city. The Lord Bishop of Derry and Raphoe and Mrs Alexander, who wrote the words for the hymn "There is a Green Hill Far Away", were committee members.

The building has served many uses. Its

history is interwoven with the history of the city. It served as a prison for women and as a headquarters of the B Special. The Unionist Party and British Army are among those in recent times who have used it.

This building has been vacant for a number of years and has fallen into a state of dereliction. The Trust can fully understand the concerns of those residents, who are ratepayers of the city, being distressed that a building in their street has been allowed to lie idle for so long and to become an eyesore. It seems grossly unfair that residents who pay rates on their maintained property should have to look out at a building that has been allowed to decay, while its owner pays no such taxes. To permit an important listed building to arrive at a situation where it becomes delapidated, falls into a state of dereliction and becomes an eyesore is a sad reflection on government policy. The elected representatives of the citizens, who form the local authority, are chosen to serve as custodians and guardians of the city and its buildings. Their vigilance and concern for our built inheritance should be paramount and this would reflect an enlightened policy on conservation as far as the city is concerned and safeguard that precious heritage for future generations.

These older important buildings need to be watched, safeguarded and monitored very carefully as they are irreplaceable both in terms of their architectural integrity and their historical associations. How many planners, architects or those involved in making decisions about how our city looks and functions have the knowledge, feel, imagination or concern for older buildings? Who is the person or persons who ultimately gives permission to demolish important listed buildings or allows the fundamental scarring of central areas of the city to take place? These are fundamental questions that, in a democracy, need to be answered.

People with imagination and an interest in history, need to look no further than to the recent successful restoration work carried out on Kilmainham Jail, Dublin, to identify a function for the building. There, a totally derelict building has been restored, by enthusiastic people sensitive to the historical associations of the building. They have voluntarily given their time and energy to a very careful



and authentic restoration project. Incorporating the Hawkin Street building into a future development on the site surely should be viewed an option. For example, a centre that depicts the history of the Fountain and the surrounding area could be incorporated in a use for the structure that would benefit the local community. Converting the building to accommodate the growing number of people who want to live in the city would seem another reasonable suggestion.

Surviving buildings, like the one in Hawkin Street, are every bit as important an aspect of our cultural development, history and heritage as are round towers and as such should be treated accordingly. Shankland has said that "a country without a past has the emptiness of a barren continent; and a city without old buildings is like a man without a memory". (UNESCO, ed. *The Conservation of the Cities* (London: Croom Helm; 1975). With the destruction of historic buildings and streets, a page, or perhaps a chapter of the life of the city, and of the history of urban civilization, is irremediably lost.

Within the past number of years we have seen the sad loss of so many listed buildings in the city. The mere fact that they were listed indicates that they possessed special architectural features or were of historic importance. These include Dill House, Ivy House, The Burns and Laird Shipping Office, The National School Building in Bridge Street, Willie John's licensed premises and many more in the Foyle Street area. For their demolition, planning permission was applied for and granted. Numerous other important unlisted structures can be added to this catalogue. Buildings that have been annihilated to make way for new developments include McCorkell's Mill, numerous buildings in Foyle Street, and the houses in Orchard Street. A row of very substantial houses in Great James Street was also demolished to make way for the Health Centre and the streetline was broken. Soon the georgian-style houses in Sackville Street will join this list unless there is a change of heart on the part of the developer and his architects.

The idea of demolishing a reasonably sound 19th century building in the centre of the city is anathema in most cities in the British Isles. On a positive note, the stones from the Bridge Street School have been kept

and may be incorporated into the Foyleside Development. However, this situation is less than satisfactory. Conservation of the original structure should always be our first priority.

Change is inevitable but that change must pay due respect to our past and the influences that past generations have had on the city. Many of those buildings were individually unimportant but collectively they formed a distinguished and coherent whole. While many of the demolished buildings may not have been of significant architectural or historical value, they constituted physical links with the past, and whether we like it or not, reflected former stages of our civilisation. It is not possible to save all of these buildings, for one reason or another, but we should not make the need for progress an excuse to eradicate so many. There is no contradiction in this. The older buildings of our city have lasted many lifetimes and generations of people have worked and lived in them.

Preservation of older buildings can bring economic benefits. This has been shown to be the case in other cities like Bath. Tourism is now becoming the most important growth industry world-wide and if Derry wants to attract tourists and expand its tourist base in the future then the more of its authentic core it retains the better. The growth of travel is making people more aware of the distinctiveness of different towns and cities and is responsible for a desire to retain the existing detail and diversity of urban landscapes. As people travel more, they become conscious that one of the factors that attracts them to particular urban centres is the sense of uniqueness that these towns and cities have.

The preservation of old buildings is also important for local people of both traditions because these buildings can help increase the pride that both communities have in their city's historical past. Old buildings help to create and sustain a sense of identity and create an awareness of our former cultural achievements. Conservation can, therefore, play an important role in cities like Derry, where the two communities need elements of a common culture which both can claim to have contributed to. Buildings, streets, and landmarks are recognised as essential factors in the creation of a sense of identity. Every community has landscapes that are felt to

symbolise its culture. We need to preserve symbolic elements or our urban past to give us a sense of identity, of belonging to a place.

This can be done via the preservation of visible landmarks in our towns and cities. The conservation of buildings and street-scapes helps to keep alive the history and traditions that underpin our contemporary society.

What makes many of these older buildings unique is the architectural quality of their scale, proportion, detail and decoration. Their visual quality is enhanced by the material used, be it brick, stone or slate, and their setting integrates them with the street or landscape.

Old buildings and streets are worthy of preservation not only for their intrinsic beauty but also for the sense of identity that they offer. The feel of continuity is of considerable importance if we are to preserve our sense of local, regional and national identity in the face of the challenge that this identity faces from multi-national economic groupings, standardised consumer products, the mass media and supra-national political arrangements.

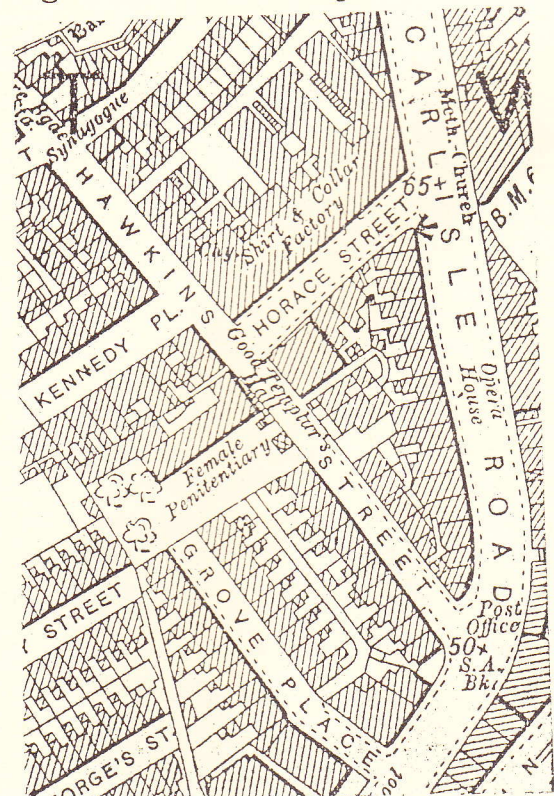
It is widely supposed that Derry is a place of antiquity. This is true of the legends and stories that come from the place. However, this is not the case as far as its buildings are concerned. The walls and the Cathedral are the oldest surviving structures and still fulfil the functions for which they were built. A few eighteenth century buildings remain but the bulk of Derry's architectural heritage remains Victorian. Whether the city is called Derry or Londonderry elicits enormous passion among some people but yet when the fabric of the city is being mutilated no such passion is displayed.

The lack of concern is also apparent, that is until the very recent past, concerning the horrendous appearance of some of our newer developments. Architecture that is out of keeping with its surroundings, e.g. buildings that are not aligned with other buildings in the street, or are deformed by advertisements or signs are of negative value to the urban landscape. Other visible forms of negative architecture are open-air car parks and vacant plots. There appears to be no

recognition of, or concession to, any historical or architectural influences from the past, or indeed any attempt to integrate them into the existing streetscape. Even the historically significant names of McCorkell and Coppin and their association with the city in the last century have succumbed to urban amnesia. Old buildings are the last testament of the past, which is the root of what we are and what we will be.

One can't help but feel angry when confronted, on a daily basis, with some of these recent additions to the fabric of the city. Others, who have been instrumental in the development of these building projects, may consider themselves lucky to view these scars infrequently, as many of them reside outside the city. The individuals who initiated, consented to, approved of, developed and were in anyway knowingly involved, have done the city a grave injustice. In Derry, as in many other beautifully located cities, while "the hand of God achieved a masterpiece of scenic splendour, the hand of man has not always been similarly inspired".

It was announced by the planning officials at the Councils Planning Committee meeting of April 6, 1994, that the application for the demolition of the Hawkin Street building was refused. Perhaps the tide has turned.



MAP 1907

# Johnsgate City Wall Restoration Project

... Denis Leonard

***"The City Walls" - says Dinely, speaking of Limerick in 1680 - "are fair and strong with a paved walk thereon, as are those of Shrewsbury and Chester in England . . ."***

The above quotation is the opening sentence of a special survey "The Ancient Walls of Limerick" prepared by H. G. Leask M.R.I.A. in 1941. In his comprehensive study he describes the Johnsgate section of the city wall as "The longest, best preserved and straightest length of ancient walling surviving. The total length of this section was over 750 feet and of this, some 640 feet still stand. It is built of large, roughly squared masonry and is seven feet in thickness at the top; it may be more below; indeed, the reputed thickness of the walls of the Irishtown is eleven feet."

Since Leask's Report in 1941, the said portion of walling has reduced even further in length and thickness. It was due to this ongoing deterioration that Limerick Corporation planned a linear park scheme to preserve the present remains and to stop further deterioration.

The project is planned in a number of stages:

1. To build a facing wall where the original was removed.
2. To cap, in stone, the entire length of the wall.
3. To develop a linear public park around both sides of the wall.

With the backing and financial assistance of Limerick Corporation, the PAUL Partnership and FAS, Limerick Civic Trust undertook the task to carry out the first two stages involving the stonework.

The project commenced before Christmas with site preparation and development. A supervised shallow trench was dug, by hand, to trace the line of the outer face of both sides of the wall.

Despite the very adverse weather conditions the work has progressed at a steady rate at the Old Clare Street end of the wall. The special employment of two masons was funded by the PAUL organisation. FAS granted a Community Employment Scheme for 21 people and also assigned two trainee masons to this project. Limerick Corporation have provided the professional plans and supervision as well as grant assisting the material and site costs. Limerick Civic Trust are managing the project and are also providing funds towards the overall general costs of the project.

The restoration of the city wall at Johnsgate is an excellent example of co-operation and resource sharing between four organisations. The final result will be the long term preservation of this historic monument and the provision of a linear park for the benefit and enjoyment of the local community, citizens and visitors alike.



The Walls of Limerick

# 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. 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>(1)</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>(2)</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>(3)</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>(4)</sup>

The first use of the word 'Diamond' appears in the Census of 1659. The word 'Diamond' is common in the west as it is also found in County Donegal in Donegal Town; Raphoe; Castletinn 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 Castlederg 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>(5)</sup>

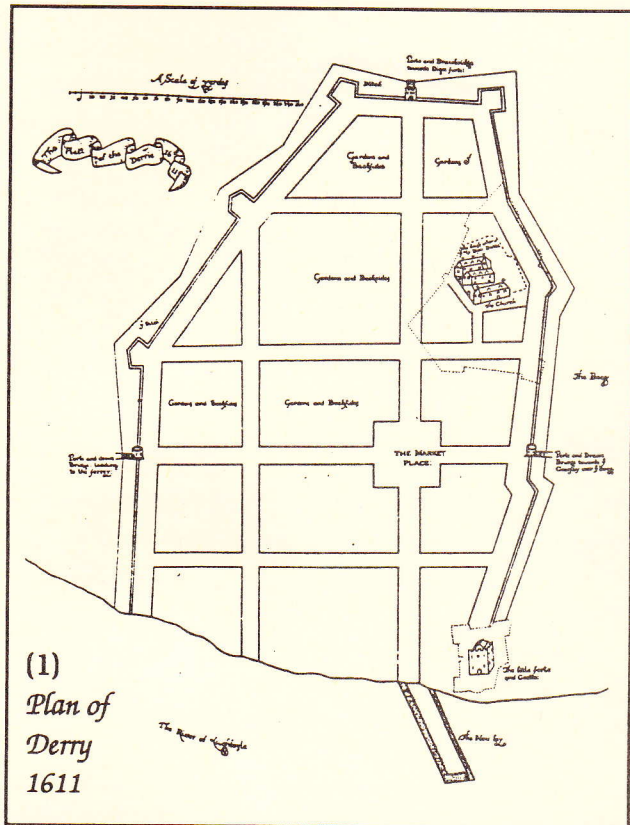
Around the Diamond the other houses would have also been badly damaged and many of them would have been rebuilt. This is borne out by the survey of the City by Archibald Stewart for the Hon. The Irish Society in 1738. His written survey describes the houses inside the walls in some detail and numbers each one to a plan. It is on the plan that he calls the Diamond 'King William's Square'.<sup>(6)</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>(7)</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.

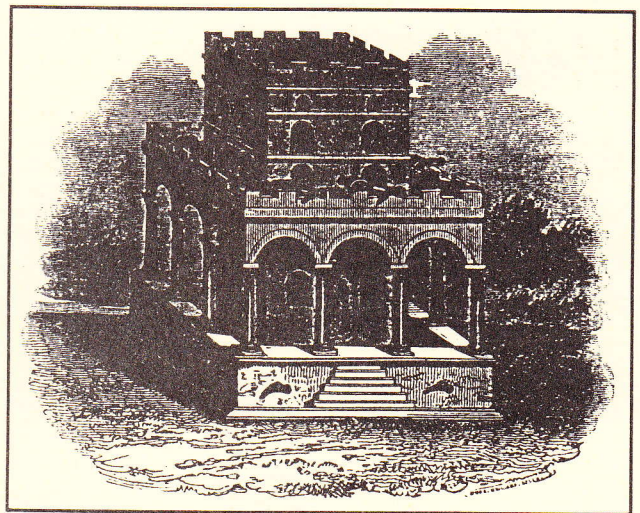
The building lay until 1909 when it was demolished and the area cleared for enclosed gardens to be laid out by The Irish Society. They were opened on 10th August 1910 by Sir Alfred Newton, Governor of the Hon. The Irish Society.<sup>(8)</sup> The following article from the *Londonderry Standard* of 26th July 1913 describes these gardens:<sup>(9)</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>(10)</sup>

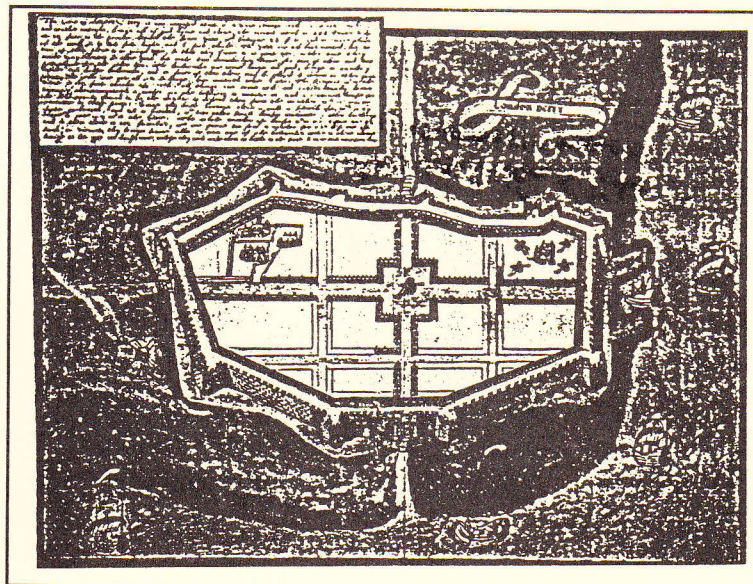
The buildings around the Diamond have been used for the past 375 years for residential and commercial use, but most of the present buildings are relatively modern but are used only for commercial purposes. Even the Diamond itself was used for the old hiring fairs but yet it would still be considered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



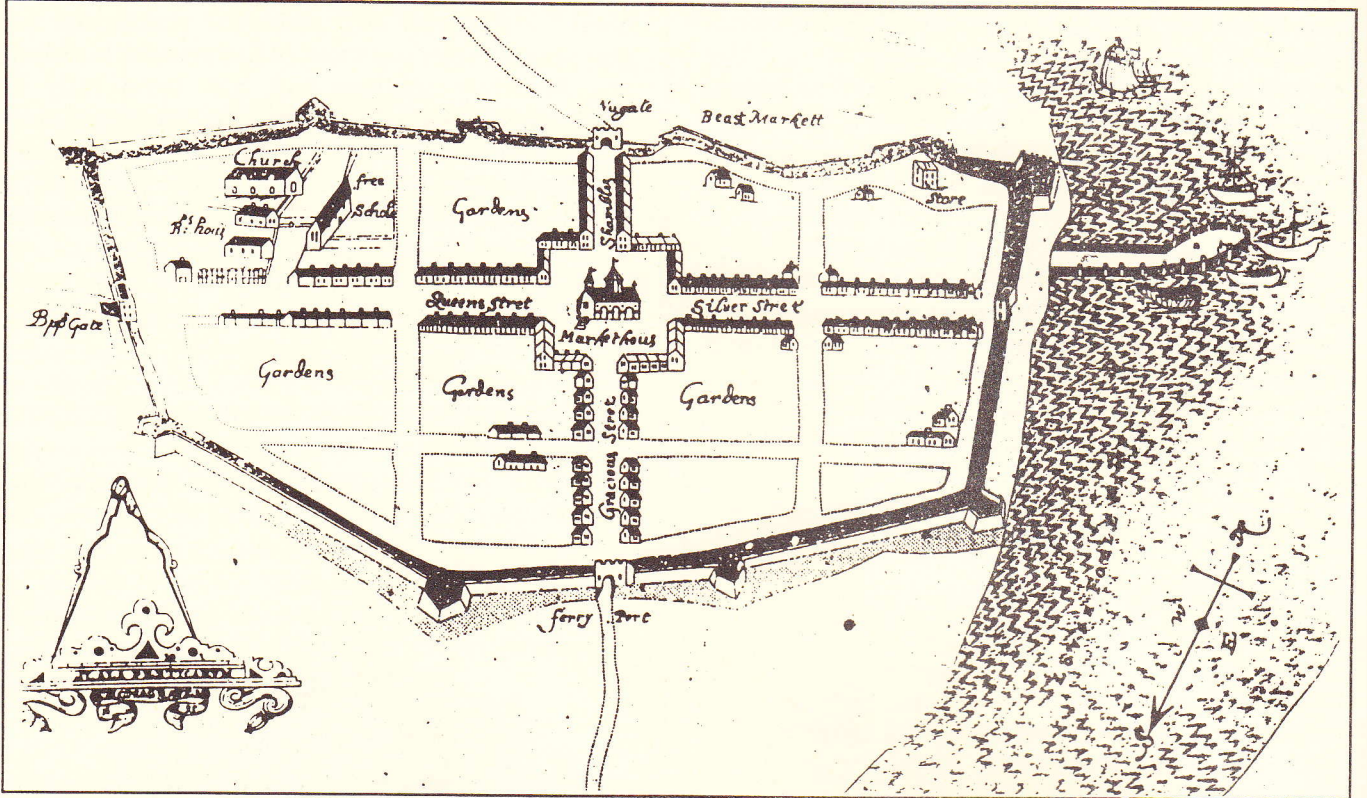
(3) 1622



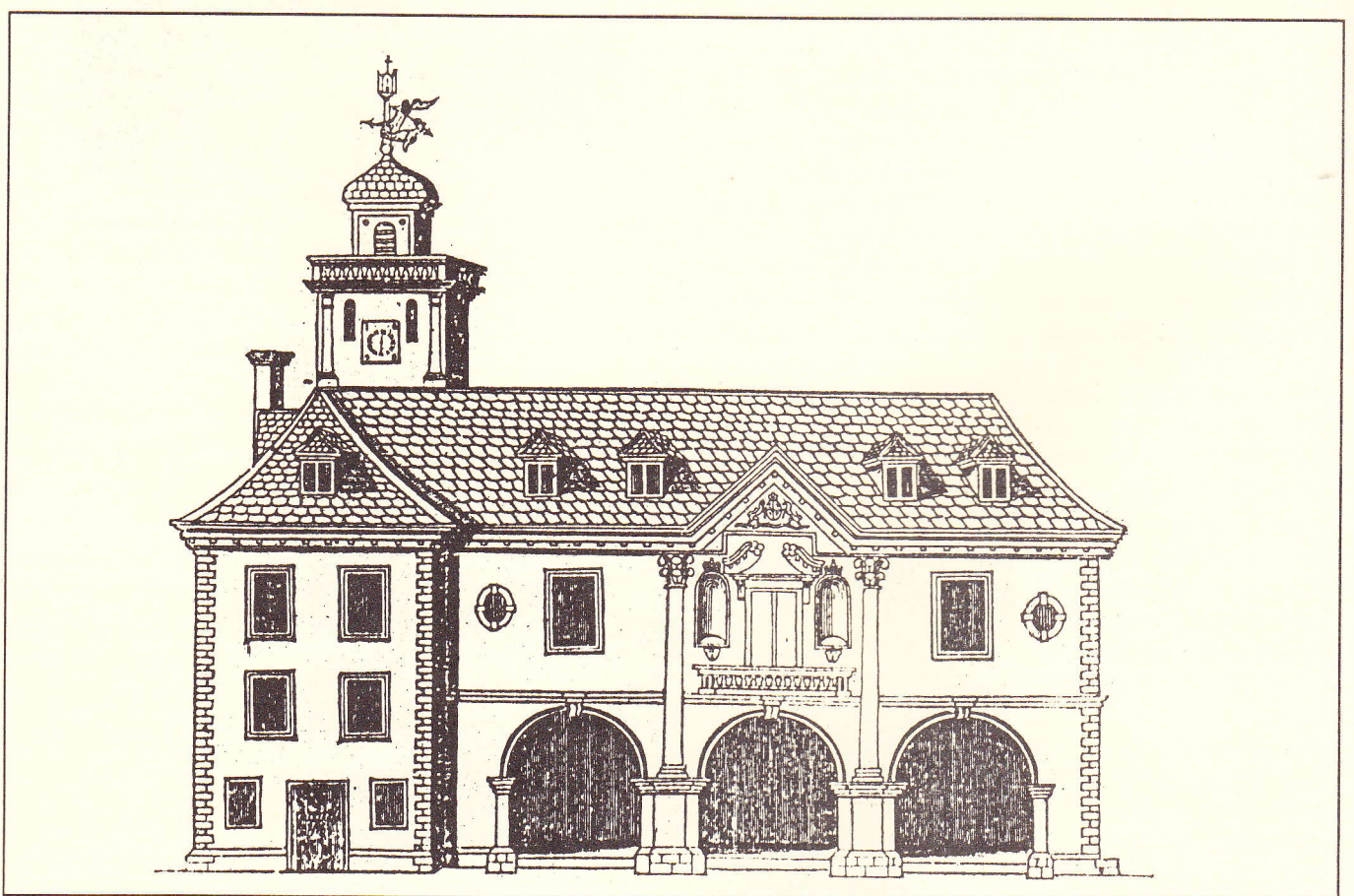
(2)  
1619

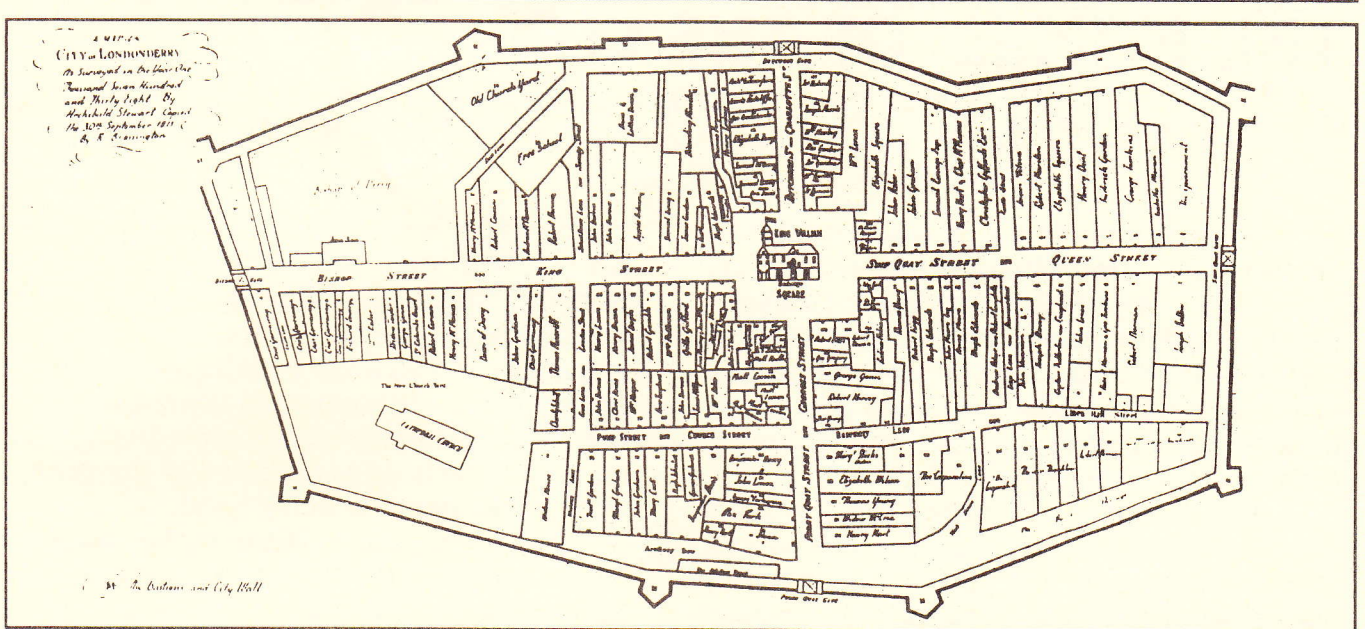


(4) 1625



(5)

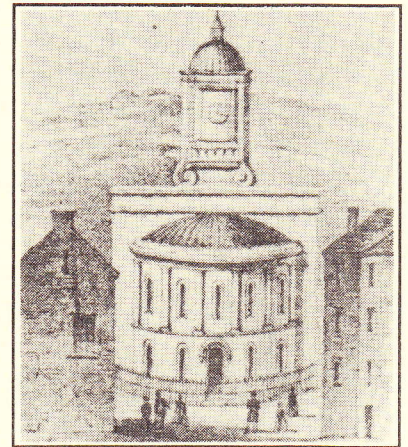




(6)

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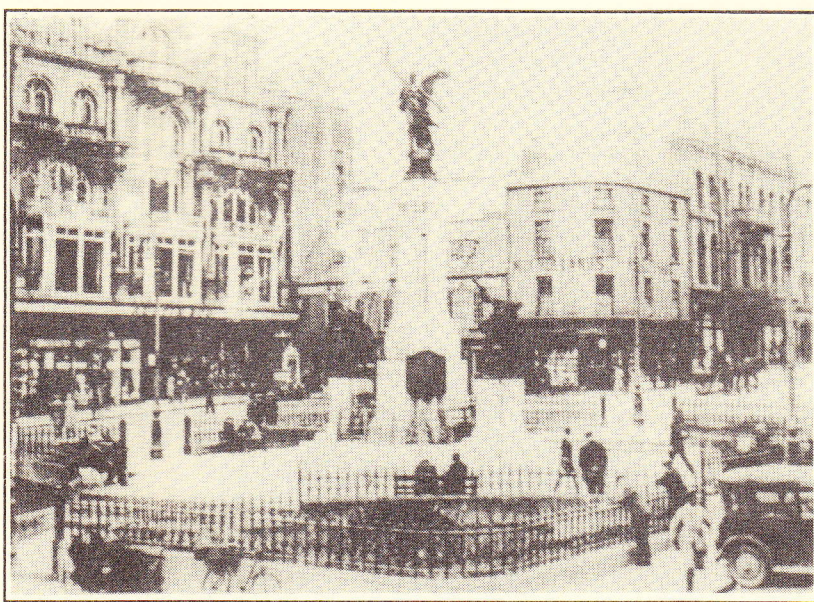


(9)

*The Londonderry Sentinel,  
26th July 1913.*

**THE DIAMOND GARDENS**

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 centrepiece. 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 alyssum 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.



(10)

The Diamond, late 1920's (McDonald/Bigger Collection)

# THE NAMES OF THE CITY

... By Brian Lacey

There is a tendency to assume that the controversy surrounding the name of the city here is a unique phenomenon. However, there are many towns and cities in Europe, just to take that example, where, because of competing cultural or linguistic groups or because of changing political circumstances, a choice of names is available.

The debate surrounding the name of this city often assumes that there is or was only two names for the place. I deliberately use the word 'place' as it is important to make a distinction between the legal and geographical entity of the city and the place (indeed places) where the city is located.

This place has been known by many names, some of which we will never know

because they were in use long before recorded history. However, the following list is drawn from documentary sources going back to the 7th century. It is not comprehensive in that it is not based on a systematic search but, as will be seen, it is somewhat academic in that the most minor variations have been listed, many of which arise because of the case in which the name is being used.

One other point, Derry is the name of a Diocese of both the Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church. There is no such thing as a Bishop or Dean of Londonderry. That Derry (of the diocese) is a totally different geographical entity to the city or the county, whether you call either of those Derry or Londonderry.

NAMES	SOURCES	NAMES	SOURCES
DAIRE CALCIG		DERRYCALGIE	ANN CLON 830
DAIRU CALCHAIGH		DERYE	10 MAY 1605
ROBORETUM CALGACHI	ADOMNAN	DERRY	STATE PAPERS 1567
ROBORETUM CALGAGI	C. 700	DERRIE	JAMES 1 CHARTER, 11 JULY 1604
DAIRI CALGGAICH	AI 990	THE DERRY	
DAIRE CALCAIG	AU 990	THE ISLAND OF DERRY	
DAIRE CALGAIGH	AFM 997	THE ISLAND OF THE DERRY	
DAIRI CHALGAIGH	TIG 620	THE ISLAND AND FORT OF THE DERRY	EARLY 17TH CENTURY MAPS
DAIRE CALGGAIDH	AU 724	LONDONDERRIE	
DIARE CHALGAIDH	AU 788	LONDONDERRE	STATE SWORD CHRTR,
DAIRE CALGAIGH	AU 881	LONDONDERRY	29 MARCH 1613
DAIRE CALCAICH	AU 920	LONDON-DERRY	COAT OF ARMS EXPLANATION
DAIRE CALCAICCH	AFM 927	LONDON DERRY	13 JUNE 1613
DOIRE CALGAIDH	MOD 1532	L'DERRY	THOMAS PHILLIPS 1685
DOIRE CALGAICCH	MOD1532	LOUGHFOYLE	
DOIRE CHALGGAIGH	AFM 948	THE MAIDEN CITY	
DOIRI CALCAIGH	MOD 1532	THE NORTH WEST	
DOIRI CALGAIG	MOD 1532	STROKE CITY	
DAIRE COLUIM CILLE	AU 1121	CITYSIDE	
DAIRE CHOLUIM CHILLE	A1 1121	THE WEST BANK	
DOIRI COLUIM CILLE	ALC 1211		
DOIRE COLUIM CILLE	MIA 1135		
DOIRE CHOLAIM CHILLE	AFM 1135		
DOIRE CHOLUIM CHILLE	AFM 950		
DAIRIU	AU 669		
DAIRE	AU 975		
DOIRE	ALC 1025		
DOIRI	MOD 1532		
PORT DOIRI	ALC 1196		
CUAN DOIRE	TIG 1167		
TEARMON DOIRE	AFM 1537		
DEREN	10 JUNE 1590		

Contemporary explanation of the coat-of-arms granted to the city of Londonderry on 1 June 1613



THE ARMS OF THE CITY OF DERRY WERE AT FIRST, WHEN THE HON. SIR HENRY DOWR, KNIGHT, BEING THE 21 ST. EARL OF STRATHMORE AND TULLYBETTING, HIGHER-SHERIFF OF TIRONE, THE PICTURE OF DEATH (OR A SKELTON) SITTING ON A BUSH, AND BEING THE BATTLE-FIELD AT ANGLE. AND FORASMUCH AS THAT CITY WAS SINCE MOST TRAITEROUSLY SACKED AND DESTROYED BY SIR CHARLES (OR SIR CHARLES) O'DONOGHUE, AND HATH SINCE BEEN (AS IT WERE) REBUILT FROM THE DEER BY THE WORTHY (SIR) ARTHUR OF THE HON. CITY OF LONDON, IN MEMORY WHEREOF IT IS NOW REDESCRIBED, CALLED, AND KNOWN BY THE NAME OF LONDON-DERRY. I WAS, AT THE REQUEST OF JOHN BOWLES, NOW FIRST MAYOR OF THAT CITY, AND THE COMMONS OF THE SAME, SELECTED THE SAME WITH AN ADDITION OF A CROWN OF LONDON, AS HERETOFORE, AND FOR CONSOLIDATION THEREOF, I HAVE DEEPLY CONSIDERED AND SEEN THE BEST OF IT, AND HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING COAT OF ARMS.

DES. MICHAEL V. THE KING OF ARMS.



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# AWARDS CEREMONY

It is always a pleasure to visit Dublin especially for a sort of reunion, so when Denis Leonard, director, Limerick Civic Trust invited us to put forward local projects for the Civic Trusts Ireland Environmental Awards we did our best to comply. The Awards were sponsored by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, these awards are specifically designed to acknowledge the improvements to the environment by small voluntary groups or individuals which would otherwise go unnoticed and unpublished.

Projects were submitted from three local groups,

1. Ballyarnet Racecourse Society,
2. Columba House,
3. D.A.R.E.

Prior to the awards ceremony representatives from Foyle Civic Trust attended a lunch reception hosted by Dublin Civic Trust at their recently acquired premises in South Frederick Street, it was interesting to see the progress they're making on this exciting project which Ian Lumley has undertaken, the restoration of a building introduces many challenges which Ian and his colleagues are meeting with endless enthusiasm. Representatives from trusts throughout the country were present.

Later in the afternoon everyone assembled at the R.I.A.I offices in Merrion Square for the award ceremony.

Mr Nicholas Robinson, Hon. President of the Irish Architectural Archives presented the awards and all three entries from Derry received a piece of Irish china to mark the occasion. Mr Robinson praised the efforts of all the entrants for their contribution towards the betterment of the environment.



*Nicholas Robinson, Hon. President of the Irish Architectural Archives with Mary McLaughlin, Vice-Chairman of the Foyle Civic Trust, at the Award Ceremony*

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## BOOK REVIEW

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Brian Mitchell,  
**Derry: A City Invincible**

*(Eglinton, Co. Londonderry: Grocers' Hall Press; 1994).  
ISBN 0 9515977 0 1. 98pp. Price £4.95*

This book, originally published in 1990, has been reprinted in 1994. The author sets himself the daunting task of compressing 4,000 years of Derry's history into a framework of sixteen incidents or scenes which he covers in less than 98 pages, including those containing the attractive illustrations by Bridget Murray. In his introduction, Mr. Mitchell aptly draws our attention to the fact that "in the story of Derry we have, in effect, the story of Ireland. Both Gael and Planter made their contributions to the city's development."

The episodic format chosen, whereby certain incidents, or time periods relating to aspects of the city's history are highlighted and described, gives the reader an insight into life here at those times. A price has to be paid for this approach, however, given the space constraints imposed by a rather small book. One drawback is the lack of coverage given to the historical evolution of the city during the intervals that elapsed between the episodes selected for scrutiny. To take an example: relatively little attention is devoted to developments in the period between the end of the Norman settlement of the North West (1305) and the start of the Tudor conquest of Ulster (1566). In the sections dealing with the nineteenth century, treatment of the impact of the railway on the city had presumably to be omitted for reasons of space.

I agree with the author that "Derry is a superb historic town", but only in the sense that it has been in existence for a fairly long time by Irish standards, and that it has served as a cockpit of conflict in recent centuries between the two main currents of political and religious opinion within this island. It may come as a shock to many of Derry's natives that only a very small proportion of its built fabric is over two centuries old, the walls and St. Columb's Cathedral being the main exceptions. The physical remnants of Londonderry's chequered past are proportionately fewer in number and in extent than in most other historic cities of approximately the same size in these islands. That is why it is so important to preserve what little remains of our surviving pre-1900 buildings. Public opinion must be educated, before it is too late, to accept the need for the restoration and sensitive adaptation to modern usage of decaying, derelict and threatened buildings from the nineteenth century or earlier. Derry's location in one of the most attractive urban settings of these islands will not compensate for the destruction of what survives of its historical ambience.

Brian Mitchell cites the example of three early nineteenth century granite warehouses in Boston's Quincy Market which were converted into shops, food stalls and restaurants a few years ago, and which

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presumably have been visited by some of our city fathers and other notables during the annual trans-Atlantic expeditions organized by Derry-Boston Ventures. It is a great shame that these visits do not appear to have the conservational resonance that might have been expected of them, and that two of our historic buildings (one of them, ironically, an early nineteenth century warehouse) were demolished to make way for the recently-constructed Strand Road Quay-side development. Hopefully, citizens, planners, city councillors and developers have learned from this experience and will press, where feasible, for the adaptive use of old buildings in future, rather than acquiesce in further demolition.

The author's authoritative use of the dates in the medieval period could convey the impression that there is a general acceptance of the veracity of some of the events described, e.g. St. Patrick's arrival at Grainan of Aileach in 442 A.D. Assuming, for example, that there was a single "St. Patrick", how certain can we be that he arrived at Grainan in that year, and that Grainan served as a royal palace at the time of his visit? It is unlikely, furthermore, that the whole of Ireland had been converted to Christianity by the time of the death of the man we refer to as Patrick. What credence should we give to the claim, made in the Annals of Clonmacnoise, and referred to by Brian Mitchell, that Colm Cille wrote three hundred books, all of

them copies of the New Testament? Such a feat of transcription, if true, could not have left him with much time for the multifarious organizational and religious activities with which he is also credited. Referring to the Second World War period, the author states that the American forces built a three-storey headquarters building in the grounds of Magee College, two storeys of which were below ground. My own recollections of this structure, which admittedly go back only to 1973, are of an underground bunker, which was demolished not long ago, and which did not extend above ground. Finally, a bibliography or guide to further reading would have been helpful, as would an index.

These minor criticisms aside, the author packs a surprising amount of information about this city, and its past, into less than one hundred pages. His lucid style and approach, combined with the accompanying attractive line-drawings and well-designed cover, make this book very easy to read. I found that the chapters dealing with the eighteenth century and onwards gave me a fresh perspective on this period, though this may reflect my own particular interests. **Derry: A City Invincible** will serve as an useful short introductory survey of the history of this city for tourists and visitors. It can also be recommended to natives of the Maiden City who lack the time and motivation to tackle more comprehensive tomes.

*Peter Pyne*

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## OLLY MCGILLOWAY

### An Appreciation

Olly McGilloway is best remembered for his series of television programmes, his writing on wildlife and on the flora and fauna of Derry and Donegal. His informal, easy and relaxed style endeared him to a very wide audience. He wrote several books on wildlife and he was a columnist for *The Irish News*.

Over the last five years, Olly contributed articles to the Foyle Civic Trust Review. His accounts were generally the first to arrive - much to the delight of those people responsible for compiling the magazine! His articles always made interesting reading. For example, his description of a sand eel in the River Foyle was fascinating.

*Olly McGilloway will be sadly missed both as an observer and commentator on nature, and as a charming gentleman.*

*Joan Pyne*

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# FOYLE CIVIC TRUST ACTIVITIES

*The following is a summary of our activities for 1993-1994.*

Once again, this has been a busy year. On the accommodation front - we still haven't found a permanent home. If persistence has anything to do with success, then the situation should be resolved soon. Maybe you dear reader have a building, habitable or derelict, within the City Walls that you have no use for . . . if so, Foyle Civic Trust can help you.

Congratulations must go to two of our more active and permanent members - Mary McLaughlin and Joan Pyne. Joan has been elected as a member of Historic Buildings Council, Mary McLaughlin as a member of the Regional Committee of the National Trust. The Trust is delighted to see Derry representation on these bodies and is even happier to know that both Joan and Mary will continue their great work with the Foyle Civic Trust.

Paddy Quinn, our able staff member who contributed so much during his time with the Trust, has moved to other pastures. The Trust, while sorry to see him go, wishes him every success in his future endeavours.

The Trust was again involved this year in launching the, now established, Civic Bus tour of the city. Now that the tour is up and running (well - they take the bus, really) Foyle Civic Trust handed the future running of the tour over to Derry city council and Ulsterbus. The guide brochure, especially produced by the Trust for the tour, will continue to be used by guides who accompany the tour.

The Ulster Architectural Heritage Society in association with the Environment Service's Historic Monuments and Buildings Department published a catalogue of Historic Buildings at risk in autumn 1993. Foyle Civic Trust were pleased to help Ms Helen Hossack, of UAHS, to identify buildings at risk in the north-west area.

A very enjoyable series of talks was given at Dunadry Inn concerning buildings at risk and was attended by Trust members.

The fourth International Walled Towns Symposium is to be hosted by Derry City Council. Foyle Civic Trust, in conjunction with the Central Library, created a most interesting and impressive exhibition of early maps of the city and of selected photographs from the Lawrence collection. This exhibition was mounted for the symposium and is available to the general public.

Foyle Civic Trust members attended the Christmas Ball hosted by Belfast Civic Trust and had a ... ball. Many thanks to Belfast Civic Trust for a warm welcome and generous hospitality.

European Heritage Open Days were celebrated by a visit to the City Shirt Factory, Queen Street on 10 September 1994. A report of this visit is included in the Review.

The Foyle Civic Trust annual outing took place on 17 September 1994, visiting Knockloughrim Windmill; Springhill House; Moneymore, Wellbrook Beetling Mill; Cookstown and Drum Manor Forest Park; Cookstown. Many thanks to Annesley Malley for organising this most enjoyable of days.

Lucinda Lampton gave a vivacious and interesting presentation at the Foyle Arts Centre entitled 'Buildings for Animals' to a packed audience who clearly enjoyed the evening. This success was repeated by a humorous and most attractive presentation by Brian Lacey held in the Tower Museum.

Members from the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society visited Derry, met the mayor and were shown the city by Joe Tracey, Mary McLaughlin and Annesley Malley.

"On the Waterfront" a joint visual arts competition organised by the Trust and the Orchard Gallery and sponsored by the Department of the Environment has received many top quality entries. A selection of these stimulating and interesting graphic images were mounted for exhibition and the winner in

each category receives a sculpture of the 'River God of the Foyle'.

Trust committee members attended the Civic Trust Awards sponsored by The Calouste Gulbenkian Trust in Dublin. A report on the awards is given by Mary McLaughlin in the Review.

The Trust campaigned and lobbied councillors, made submissions to the council and Bob Hunter and Joan Pyne met the developer, councillors, representatives from the DOE on site to voice objection to the application for Listed Building Consent to demolish Whitehall Chambers, Hawkin Street. The application to demolish was rejected. Planning applications continue to be routinely monitored by the Trust.

The Trust has formulated a list of projects to be undertaken in the coming months, starting with a series of public lectures involving well known speakers talking on subjects of special local interest. Details of these lec-

tures and other projects will be announced soon.

We look forward with interest to the publication of the Draft Londonderry Area Plan 1996 - 2011.

#### *Acknowledgements*

The Chairperson and committee members of the Foyle Civic Trust would like to thank the following for their help over the past year.

*Brian Lacey & The Heritage & Museum Services*

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*Foyle Search & Rescue Service*

*Londonderry Development Office*

*D.O.E. (N.I.)*

*Derry City Council*

*Western Education & Library Board*



*Mr Annesley Malley, Dr A McCartney, Mrs R. McNutt, Mr James Sammon*



#### OFFICE BEARERS

Chairman:	Mr James Sammon
Vice Chairman:	Mrs Mary McLaughlin
Hon. Secretary:	Mr Annesley Malley
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr Gerry Murray

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. C Dickson	Mr P. Shaw
Dr. A McCartney	Mr R.J. Hunter
Ms J. Pyne	Mr J.J. Tracey
Ms K Wainwright	



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