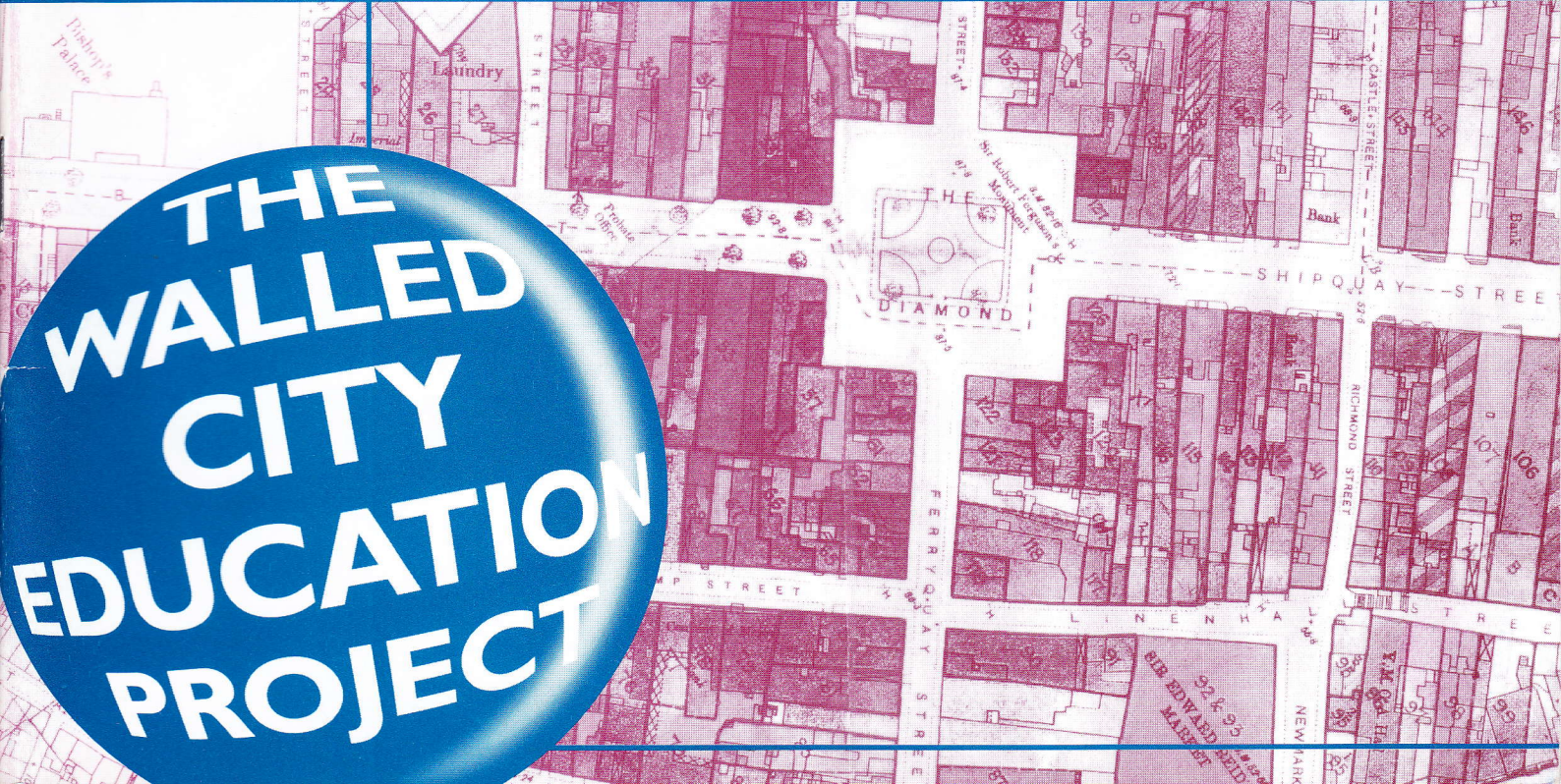


CIVIC TRUST

ISSUE 8 • 2001

The Magazine Of The Foyle Civic Trust

# REVIEW



**THE  
WALLED  
CITY  
EDUCATION  
PROJECT**



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**The transformation of our old city on the Foyle has continued vigorously in the past three years. Striking new buildings have appeared such as the Millennium Forum, and old buildings have been transformed for new purposes such as in the case of the Verbal Arts Centre. A succession of once thriving factory buildings are finding new roles. Large commercial buildings rise up on the riverside, and the suburbs expand almost in all directions.**

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## Foreword

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Yet these signs of renewal are also creating a challenge and a need for vigilance. Old buildings and areas of merit and historic interest need to be valued, and new structures should typically add to the attractiveness of the city and region rather than diminish it. There are human values to be preserved and advanced, and citizens be given reasons to be proud of their home. The Foyle Civic Trust exists to play a part in this work and needs the support of people who share its concerns and who hopefully will consider joining in its membership.

Readers of this current issue of the Review will see that two projects in particular have been given much current attention by the Trust. These are the Walled City Heritage project to upgrade older buildings in a central city area, and then the Walled City Education project which involves local schools in the active study of their urban heritage. There are other concerns too whether about the development of the riverside or the preservation of threatened listed buildings. The creation of a better environment for all the people of the city and region is no mean aim, and the preservation of what is good in our heritage is part of that work. It is our hope that readers will find in this issue something to stimulate their interest both in the past and in the future of our shared home.



**Anyone reading the famous article in The Guardian in the 1970s could be forgiven for not believing that our city could enter the year 2000 released from the devastation of that earlier decade, and now showing strong signs of renewal and regeneration. Significantly, this rejuvenation has largely been achieved without losing sight of the collective vision of a city with a unique environment and a historical legacy of which we can all be proud.**

while 'newbuild' developments have helped to restore the street scene. Alternatively, some new developments aspire to creating future listed buildings and landmarks in their own right!

Magazine Street within the Walled City exhibits both aspects, with buildings such as the North & West Housing Headquarters re-using and extending existing buildings. At the other end of the street the International Youth Hostel and Nerve Centre successfully integrate new developments and attract

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## Transforming What Was Once Called **Tumbledown Derry**

HELENA O'TOOLE

The quality of the built and natural environment now here has drawn commendation and praise from a variety of external sources. The Civic Trust listed the city as one of the top ten locations in which to live in Britain in the 1980s and more recently the city walls were awarded the prestigious Europa Nostra Award. However, it has been the strong local promotion of sensitive regeneration, giving pre-eminence to the unique character of the city, which has marked out the transformation of "Tumbledown Derry".

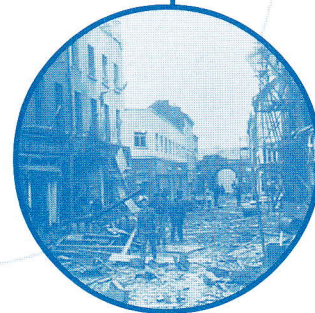
The task has required commitment, persistence and vision. This article outlines the unfolding record of achievement, particularly in the last decade and it reviews some of the mechanisms applied and areas of focus. Finally, we take a glimpse at some of the future issues which merit attention.

The current state of the city centre in particular illustrates the scale of change for the better. Few gap sites remain and a host of new enterprises have sprung up in a range of buildings generating a buzz of activity. Many of these new uses have "rescued" older buildings of merit

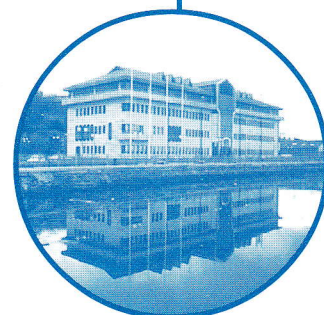
a significant movement of people in this quarter of the historic core. Finally, the inimitable Tower Museum and Calgach Centre have generated much comment, in architectural and other circles. And other new structures continue to arise.

Similarly, the Clarendon Street area west of Strand Road currently presents a healthier and more vibrant face to the observer than some years ago. 'Newbuild' units of accommodation opposite the junction with North Edward Street, initially planned for students, provide a sympathetic infill reflecting the red brick terraces and form of the Georgian Conservation Area. In the same locality, the re-use of the old church as an architectural practice preserves another building of merit.

Recent developments at the top of Clarendon Street and at Lower Clarendon Street/Queen's Quay introduce new architectural solutions to the provision of sustainable development without compromising the character of the Conservation Area. Indeed the redevelopment of the former Infirmary site at the Northland Road end of Clarendon Street creates a



Street scene 1970s



City Council Offices, Riverfront



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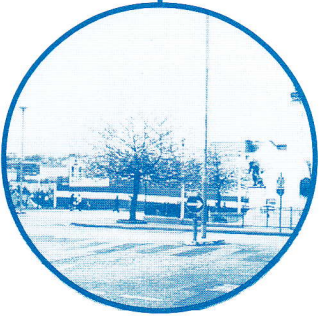
The Magazine Of The Foyle Civic Trust

# REVIEW





*The Diamond in the Walled City*



strong visual stop to this graceful street while meeting the growing demand for living accommodation within the central area. Additionally, the construction of the sympathetic Foyer development adjacent to Bayview Terrace has not only removed a long standing vacant site but has provided workspace and accommodation for the youth who make up a significant proportion of the local population.

Over the years the Londonderry Development Office has played a key role in directing and stimulating beneficial development. Particularly in the 1970s and 1980s many developments would not have succeeded or been initiated without the positive intervention of the Development Office. The remit of the LDO includes the "initiation and implementation of effective measures for achieving comprehensive urban regeneration and redress of disadvantage in Londonderry". As well as co-ordinating and promoting schemes, the Development Office is responsible for the delivery of a number of programmes. These include mechanisms to achieve physical development such as the use of urban development grants, comprehensive development proposals and extensive environmental improvement works.

Initially these various activities concentrated on restoring the fabric of the city centre which was in a state of enormous physical dereliction with consequent devastation of the economic base. At one point as much as one-third of ground floor commercial uses had ceased to exist. This situation served to focus regeneration efforts on the central business area in early years. Enormous strides have been achieved assisted by a concerted physical development programme involving LDO investment in excess of £55m from 1983.

This public expenditure resulted in wider benefits by kick-starting investment. For example, injection of £32m of Urban Development Grant in a wide variety of schemes over the 1983-1999 period resulted in £118m of private sector investment in property development. The results of this are clearly visible today in the restored urban fabric.

The injection of Urban Development Grant has undoubtedly made a major contribution to the regeneration of the City. However, one of the most significant measures has been the comprehensive development of large sites exhibiting severe dereliction and where a variety of factors militated against the private sector initiating development. Since 1987 over 13,000sq m of derelict land has been brought into use, 2,290 multi-storey car parking spaces provided and at least 1,940 jobs created in such developments. In its earliest application the flagship Richmond Centre literally rebuilt the heart of the Walled City where one side of the historic core at the Diamond had been lost.

In more recent years, Lisnagelvin Retail Park, Foyleside and Rathmor have been similarly developed generating additional commercial activity in various parts of the urban area.

While debate continues on the architectural merits of some larger schemes the economic renewal to which they have contributed has resulted in a change in the economic climate. This in turn has made more viable the continued life of some of our more treasured buildings. Again with grant assistance many of the city's former shirt factories are undergoing redevelopment or have successfully achieved viable alternative uses. Phase one of the development at the former Hogg & Mitchell factory provides



residential and commercial accommodation while sensitively preserving the character of the remaining elements of this listed building. Further work is proposed as a second phase to complete the redevelopment of the remaining area. This will provide a link building to the exceptional, reconstructed Mullan's bar at the junction of Sackville Street and Little James' Street.

The Star and Rosemount factories have been restored, the former primarily for residential apartments, and the conversion for educational use of the City factory in Queen St./Patrick Street has been largely accomplished.. Ebrington factory is enjoying extended life in a range of community uses with further developments planned. Planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of the Welch Margetson factory, which should secure its unique contribution to Carlisle Road and the wider cityscape. The Tillie & Henderson factory has been sold and planning permission already granted for conversion of the factory to apartments and office use.

As the commercial heartland of the city was substantially restored and economic activity improved, the priority for regeneration efforts could be re-examined. With the arrival of the Derry Area Plan 2011, the idea to re-establish the role of the Riverfront was promoted. This was linked with the identification of three major redevelopment areas along the edge of the river with further smaller areas also highlighted.

The doors of opportunity for this renewal approach were opened with the decision to relocate the port activities downstream to Lisahally, a move completed in the early 1990s. While positive in the employment and economic activity field, the relocation has also facilitated a transformation of

the city's physical environment and the relationship which the community enjoys with the River Foyle.

Two of the redevelopment sites identified have already been taken up for development. The Sainsbury's scheme became reality earlier this year after a considerable process of discussion and assessment. Phase 2 of the development of the site is currently in progress in a scheme incorporating commercial uses and apartments. Similarly, planning permission has been granted at McFarland's Quay for a major comprehensive mixed-use scheme which should contribute to the vitality of the city while securing access to the Riverfront. Together these schemes provide for a high quality walkway and cycleway linking the Riverfront to the city centre and the National Cycle Route under development by Sustrans. Already the route had connected Newbuildings to the city centre via Victoria Road and the Riverfront on the east bank.

The remaining major redevelopment area at Queen's Quay comprises the last of the sites identified in the Riverside Strategy. In early 2000 the LDO advised the Derry City Council that it would consider preparing a comprehensive development scheme in view of the diversity of ownership and the currently run down nature of much of the locality.. The area represents one of the last major riverfront sites presently under consideration, and already a new hotel project is in process of construction. It is anticipated that the site at Whittaker Street/ Foyle Street, owned by the LDO and formerly occupied by the City Hotel, will be developed in due course.

Renewing the vitality and viability of the city centre is inevitably an ongoing process, but the comprehensive and partnership approach promoted by the relevant agencies has borne fruit. For example, the redevelopment of the



*The Guardian's Article*



Foyleside area combined programmes for Comprehensive Development and Urban Development Grant while the surrounding public realm was the subject of major environmental improvement works.

### —“Jewel in the Crown”—

Today the focus of the Environmental Improvement work programme is the historic core within the city walls. A major scheme for the public realm has commenced in the Diamond with the use of Caithness stone paving, and granite kerbing. This high quality scheme represents an upgrading that is a long-term investment for the future and an enhancement of the “Jewel in the Crown” within our unique Walled City.

The patience and endurance of the adjoining property owners has allowed the scheme to proceed towards an early conclusion in the Diamond. Lessons learned working with such materials not commonly employed serve to ease the following stages of the EI scheme which involve the upgrading of Ferryquay Street, Shipquay Street, Butcher Street and Bishop Street in that order.

This scheme represents a significant investment in the public realm in the central area and underscores the importance of our Walled City in economic, historical and environmental terms. The works will enhance public spaces and buildings of grace and merit which collectively provide us with a townscape of which we can be proud. Despite a turbulent history, streets such as Bishop Street retain the essential characteristics which make Londonderry unique.

The “Pride in Our City” campaign, promoting a range of facelift improvements and actions to enhance the city, is evidence of the strong partnership approach which has enabled

regeneration and renewal on a major scale and which has underpinned the achievements to date. Agencies including the Derry City Council, Londonderry Development Office, Town Centre Management, the Townscape Heritage Initiative and a whole range of commercial interests have all taken up the challenge. The involvement of public, private and special interest groups is an encouraging omen for the future.

And what is to come in the future? The Regional Strategic Framework has identified the city as the regional hub of the North West. Work will therefore continue to build the infrastructure of the area commensurate with this regional role. Both the port and airport have seen significant investment and work is due to commence to complete the orbital link from Bunrana Road to the A6 to Belfast. Education facilities at Magee College, the North-West Institute, and at Altnagelvin are all enjoying growth.

Efforts continue to expand and diversify our economic base with the introduction of hi-tech industries, call centres and development of indigenous firms such as Perfecseal. Both the arts and culture, and hospitality uses remain strong and these contribute to a healthy service sector. A remarkable addition to this is the very recent opening of the Millennium Forum Theatre and Conference Centre in the heart of the city.

All this is taking place against the backdrop of a review of the register of listed buildings. Therefore we begin a new millennium with a timely re-evaluation of what we have of merit in architectural terms. The concerted partnership approach which has already borne fruit, should augur well for the transformation of what The Guardian graphically termed “Tumbledown Derry”.





The eagerly awaited formal letter came in July of this year. The work of more than two years received its reward when the Foyle Civic Trust was informed that a grant of £1 million was being awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund for a restoration scheme in an area spanning the celebrated Walls of Derry.

The work of formalising the constitution and arrangements of the Partnership is currently under way and the representatives of the Foyle Civic Trust are keenly involved. An interesting feature of the scheme is the plan to promote "Living over the Shop", by making use of otherwise vacant upper floors in buildings in the project area.

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## Lottery Aid For Upgrading City Buildings

# Million Pound Grant

FROM LOTTERY FUND

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The scheme will concern up to 33 properties in one of the city's best known and busiest areas - comprising Shipquay Street, Shipquay Place, Waterloo street and Castle Street. The grant will be a crucial aid and stimulus to property owners and other funding agencies to restore the fabric of old buildings in an authentic and substantial way, and make possible their continuing use whether for business or residential purposes.

The scheme will make it possible for properties which have suffered from inappropriate repairs and economic decline to be upgraded. There are also various listed buildings in the area which include the former Belfast Bank designed by Charles Lanyon, architect of some of Belfast's best known buildings.

The original move to launch and seek support for the scheme was led by the Foyle Civic Trust, and the Walled City Partnership was formed which included representatives from the Trust, the Derry City Council, the Department of Social Development, the City Centre Initiative and the Housing Executive. It is this Partnership which will have the task of guiding and conducting the scheme.

The award from the Lottery Fund came under its Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme.

The Lottery grant is not designed to provide the entire common fund for the project, and at least 25% of the funding will have to come from other sources. Thus the Department for Social Development, the Planning Service, the Housing Executive and Derry City Council are expected to be involved. This is apart from the appropriate contribution from participating property owners.

The Foyle Civic Trust is indebted to three of its members in particular for advancing this scheme, Mr Joe Tracey, Ms Caroline Dickson and the chairperson, Mrs Mary MacLaughlin.



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### Future Reading

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The Trust regrets the delay in the appearance of this issue of the Review, which was due to a variety of circumstances. We remain particularly grateful to the Derry City Council Museum and Heritage Service for its sponsorship of the issue.

We also regret that a number of articles have had to be held over for future publication. Readers can look forward to The Former Building at 8-10 Victoria Road by W.Gerald Crawford: The Natural History of the Inishowen Peninsula by John Conaghan and other articles.





For the past two years the Foyle Civic Trust together with a number of local schools has been conducting an educational project that focusses on the history, architecture and development of the historic old city on the Foyle.

Street within the Walls. This street was chosen as the starting point as it contained some very fine buildings- and also some inappropriate in-fill. The students of Foyle and Londonderry College created elevations of buildings in the area as they existed about the

Local Students At Work

# Exploring Bishop Street

THE WALLED CITY EDUCATION PROJECT AND TWO EXHIBITIONS

This Walled City Education Project has fostered much interesting research and design on the part of young people in the schools and their teachers, and resulted in two striking exhibitions held in the recently restored Verbal Arts Centre beside the City Walls.

The Project is indebted for its funding to the Department for Social Development by way of the Londonderry Initiative. The overall aim is to compile an urban archive recording the historical and architectural development of the city and its geographical expansion in the twentieth century. It is hoped to create a record of buildings within the conservation area as well as other buildings of merit.

In doing this the Project aims to encourage in the younger generation an appreciation of the historic fabric of the city. For the students directly involved there is the challenge to observe and record the architectural detail of buildings and to learn something of their history. The exhibitions of their resulting work should help other students to become more aware of their urban environment and heritage. The Project is cross-curricular and cross-community and is related to some of the themes found in the national curriculum.

The pilot scheme for the Project in 1999-2000 focussed on the buildings and sites on the east side of Bishop

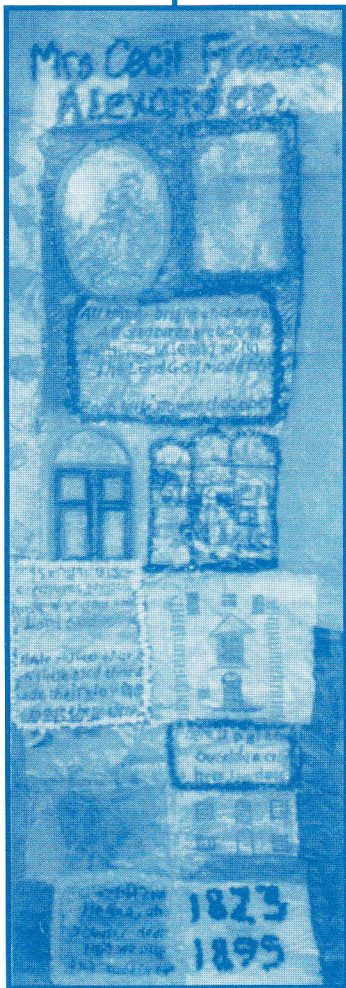
Street within the Walls. This street was chosen as the starting point as it contained some very fine buildings- and also some inappropriate in-fill. The students of Foyle and Londonderry College created elevations of buildings in the area as they existed about the

year 1900, and then used these to create a panoramic streetscape. Students of St Columb's College created artistic impressions of buildings and streetscapes in the area, by way of line drawings, water colours, prints and ceramics.

The task of the students of Oakgrove Integrated College was to trace the history of each building and plot, noting the changes of ownership and occupancy as well as plot size. Some notable occupiers of the street were recorded, and in order to place the project in a broader context, a brief outline of the physical development of the city area was included.

The Exhibition of the results of all this work was opened by the Mayor, Councillor Cathal Crumley, in the Verbal Arts Centre on June 12, 2000. Three other speakers also addressed the large attendance - Mr Jim Foster of the Department of Social Development, Mr Hugh Doherty of the Western Education and Library Board and Mrs Mary McLaughlin, chairperson of the Foyle Civic Trust.

The Exhibition was greatly admired and the students and teachers praised. Acknowledgement was also due to those who had the task of actually mounting and arranging the exhibition. Mr Joe Tracey of the Trust had a key role in this and was aided by three young architects from his office, and by Mary Hunter and





Annesley Malley. The whole project from liaison with the schools to the arrangements for the exhibition was the special concern of Martina O'Donnell, the education officer of the Trust, to whom large credit was due. The participants from the schools included:

### **Oakgrove Integrated College**

**Teacher:** Mrs Catherine McKinney

**Students:** Jane Brownlie, Stephanie Payne, Simon Irvine, Brian Lynch, Karen Nagra, Elsie McKeegan, Karen Mullan, Sheng Guo Wu, Anna Drought.

### **Foyle and Londonderry College**

**Teacher:** Mr Alistair Moorcroft

**Students:** Jennifer Barr, Gemma Craig, David McKinney, David Porter, Claire Sinton, Andrew Cadden, John McClean, Claire McMinn, Birinder Singh, Sarah Warnock.

### **St Columb's College**

**Teachers:** Mrs Philomena Grant, Ms Catherine O'Hagan, Mr Malachy McGonagle

**Students:** Connor Moran, Sean Begley, Edmund McCallion, Lee Kerlin, John Magill, Jim Murphy, Patrick Brennan, Sean Barr, Paul O'Hagan, Colin Norby, Chris McCauley, Gary Doherty, Conor Nash, Philip Doyle, John Rooney, Ryan Carlin, Blaine O'Donnell, John Canny, Michael McCauley, Daniel Shiels, Francis McAleavey, Owen Higgins, Gerard McGilloway, Paul Lynch, Martin McNickle, Jason Glackin.

## **— Phase Two: 2000-2001 —**

The Project entered its second phase in the year 2000-2001. This time the focus was on the west side of Bishop Street within the Walls, and students of art, history and geography from four schools took part. These schools were, in alphabetical order, Faughan Valley High School, Foyle and Londonderry College, St Columb's College and Templemore Secondary School.

The results of their work was seen at another impressive Exhibition which

opened at the Verbal Arts Centre on June 8, 2001. The event which was organised by the Trust was linked with the launch of the Walled City Festival sponsored by Derry City Council, and opened by the Mayor, Councillor Cathal Crumley.

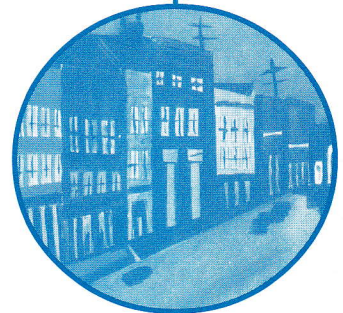
The work of the students of the four schools clearly impressed the large attendance. The art students of St Columb's College again produced a striking array of line drawings, water colours and photographs of buildings and structural details. The history students illustrated phases of the history of the street, including a remarkable chart recording the occupiers of sites in 13 particular years ranging from 1738 to 2001

The Foyle and Londonderry students displayed a most interesting range of illustrations of the street furniture, examples of regeneration of buildings and new design, and of the street perspective. Changes over time was a theme taken up by the Templemore students, making use of drawings and other illustrations, and including a contribution on the eighteenth century Bishop Hervey.

The students of Faughan Valley High played their part particularly by producing colourful wall hangings devoted to the east of the street and details of windows and stonework, and with one concentrating on the old Imperial Hotel.

The members of the Trust with their generous collaborators arranged the mounting and arranging of the exhibition. A particular role was played by the Trust's education officer, Ms Aileen McGinnis, both in prior co-ordination work and with the exhibition's arrangement. The Exhibition later moved for a short period to the Central Library. And on June 20, the participating students were presented with certificates, with a special presentation for outstanding contribution to John Lynch, an A-level student at St. Columb's.

(Continued on Page 16)







**In 1835, the Herdman brothers of Smithfield Mills, Belfast in partnership with the Mulhollands of York St Mills, decided to build a flax-spinning mill at Seein (later known as Sion Mills), county Tyrone, in order to be near the flax fields of Donegal, and to utilise the huge water-power available from the River Mourne. In 1849 the Herdmans bought out the Mulhollands and the business is still owned by the Herdman family today.**

Preservation Trust, which is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. To this end, the Sion Mills Buildings Preservation Trust has been set up by Celia Ferguson who is a member of the Herdman family living in the village of Sion Mills. Most of the trustees are professional or business people from the local community and all are committed to making the scheme work to regenerate (and thereafter to maintain) the old Mills.

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## The Task Of Preserving The **Buildings Of Sion Mills**

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CELIA FERGUSON

In 1989, a new purpose-built, single-storey mill was built immediately to the south of the old mill and since then the original mill has been unused, apart from storage and a new hydro-electric scheme installed five years ago. The main buildings are listed in the B+ category. The 5-storey, most architecturally important building was designed in 1853 by William Lynn of Lanyon, Lynn and Lanyon Architects, Belfast.

The directors of Herdmans were naturally concerned about the deterioration of the old Mills which comprise about 270,000 sq. ft of floor space, and in 1994 funding was obtained for a feasibility study to regenerate them. This was undertaken under the auspices of the Strabane - Lifford Development Commission, but the mechanism to move this initiative forward was not identified.

The big change since then, of course, is the advent of the Heritage Lottery which has resulted in many old buildings, including many industrial ones, being rescued which would not have been feasible before due to the large sums of money needed. The vehicle most favoured by the Heritage Lottery to manage these projects is a Building

The Trust also has the full support of Strabane District Council and will be co-opting a councillor as a trustee as soon as possible. A Buildings Preservation Trust is also favoured by many other sources of funding and Sion Mills BPT will be seeking funding from all quarters. The Trust's remit also includes the village (which is a Conservation Area) and the local environment, but their priority at present is the Mill.

A feasibility study is being undertaken at present and, in consultation with the directors of Herdman's Ltd, it is planned to have a mixed-use development to include residential, sporting and educational facilities; work units (craft based); tourist accommodation; a riverside restaurant with conference facilities; community areas; a coffee shop and craft shop and possibly office space. There will be direct access from the old Mill to the beautiful, new riverside walks and fishing facilities (including disabled fishing facilities) which were opened by Lord Dubs in June 1999.

The Trust's idea at present is to franchise out most facilities in the Mill, but it is allowed to set up subsidiary trading companies if it believes it is in



the best interests of all concerned, as indeed has been done at New Lanark Mills in Scotland. Any surplus funds generated are to be ploughed back into the maintenance of the buildings or used for other projects within the Trust's area. As a charitable company it has to be strictly non-profit making.

Viewed in a cross-border context, Sion Mills is very central and more ideally situated than either Derry or Belfast, both of which are on the periphery of the province. Therefore anything that is sited in the Mill should be seen in a cross-border light and at the moment, the residential sport facilities and any museum or other tourist attraction can only succeed if they are viewed as cross-border projects. The huge riverside restaurant/function/conference space will have large terraces overlooking the river with riverside apartments above, and the Trust plans to have 14 family rooms for inexpensive overnight accommodation with recreational facilities. This along with the coffee shop, and the craft and linen shop will help to service the North-West passage tourist route from Dublin to Donegal.

If anyone has any other ideas that fit in with the Trust's overall vision, please let them be known, as there is a lot of space to fill in a magnificent site by the river, overlooking the hills and with the Mill stream running through the middle of the buildings.



**Chairperson:**

Mary McLaughlin

**Vice-Chair:**

Caroline Dickson

**Treasurer**

Herbert Montgomery

**Secretary**

Marianne Gallagher

**Committee**

Frank Carey

Kate Christie

Frank D'Arcy

Philomena Grant

David Gilliland

Hugh Hegarty

Mary Hunter

Annesley Malley

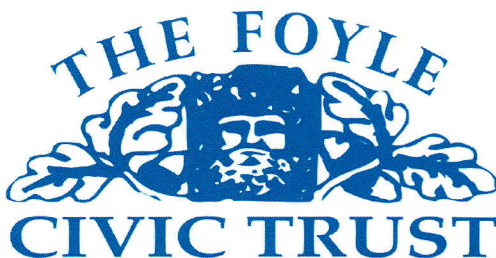
James Sammon

J.J. Tracey

Paul Tracey

**Project Officer**

Anne Montgomery



**THE FOYLE CIVIC TRUST  
BELONGS TO YOU**

Minimum membership rates per annum:

<b>Full</b>	<b>£10</b>
<b>Concessionary</b>	<b>£5</b>
<b>Community Groups</b>	<b>£25</b>
<b>Corporate</b>	<b>£100</b>

**APPLICATION FORM**

Please become a member and have a say in the future of the Derry area. Complete the form below and send it to **THE FOYLE CIVIC TRUST, 16 THE DIAMOND, LONDONDERRY BT48 6HW.**

Tel: 028 713 7266 Fax: 028 7127 9219

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Sum Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque/Post Order if posted, made out to THE FOYLE CIVIC TRUST

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**The morning edition of the Derry Journal, 2nd November 1894, carried a long and detailed report on the opening of a new building on the city walls.**

singing and the chanting of poetry coming from the wee school once again. For it is now to take on a new lease of life and is to become a place devoted to the promotion of the language arts in a

A case study in urban regeneration through cultural enterprise

# The Wee School On The Walls

SAM BURNSIDE

*The style adopted, and now for the first time introduced into this city, is an adaptation of the Dutch domestic architecture of the seventeenth century. The materials used for the exterior are Bridgwater facing brick, with mullions, transoms, string-courses, cornices, finials, and minor architectural features of Portland cement concrete.*

The building's design won high praise, being both aesthetically pleasing and well suited to its purpose:

*the building has been finished and fitted up in the very best style, as well from an artistic as from a utilitarian point of view, and nothing has been left undone to make it a success architecturally.*

To go back even further, if you had walked on the City walls here in 1778, you might well have heard, not the sound of building, but the sound of voices raised in singing for that was the year when the famous 'Blue-coat' school was founded on the walls, not far from the site of First Derry. The forerunner of First Derry Primary School, the name was taken from the pupils' distinctive blue uniforms; the boys led the singing in church, in return for which they were clothed and educated.

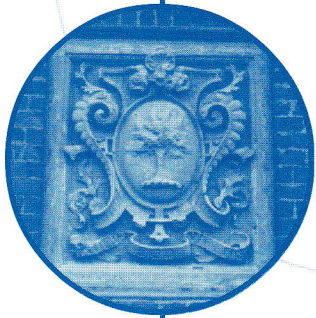
If you stroll up Grand Parade in the year 2000, and if you pause to take in the breathtaking view from the Double Bastion, you may hear the sound of

new century. And it is in a most appropriate site. Looking around, you will see a cityscape and a landscape associated with writers such as Seamus Heaney, Seamus Deane, Brian Friel, Jennifer Johnston, Joyce Cary, Mrs Alexander, James Simmons, Kathleen Coyle, and many others.

The renovation of the school building is both an ambitious and a unique project in terms of arts and education, but is also a venture that will substantially assist in the regeneration of this part of the inner city. This initiative stands as an excellent example of how inner city physical regeneration can be achieved by the arts and culture sector.

The school (now with its pupils removed to a new school at the Fountain) was purchased by The Verbal Arts Centre in the autumn of 1995. At this time the Centre commissioned a study, carried out by Mr. Peter Shaw, to examine the building's fabric and its design potential in relation to the organisation's administrative and educational needs. Following legal searches, the building was formally transferred into the Centre's ownership early in 1996.

Discussions were held with a number of individuals and bodies, including the Historic Monuments Branch of the DOE and the Royal Society of Ulster Architects. These led to a competitive





interview process being established and publicised. Given the importance of the building in the city, the chairperson of Foyle Civic Trust was invited to participate in this. Twenty-two architectural practices expressed an interest and a short list of five was drawn up. From this the award-winning practice of Hall, Black and Douglas was chosen to set up a design team and to take forward the external and internal renovation and conversion of the building. After a public tendering process the local firm of O'Neill Brothers was appointed as main building contractor.

The Verbal Arts Centre is an independent educational charity specialising in the language arts and as such has had to take up the challenge of finding all of the necessary finance. The Centre undertook a major fund-raising exercise and was successful in winning support from a number of bodies.

These included The Foundation for Sport and the Arts; the International Fund for Ireland in association with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board; the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (via its National Arts Lottery Fund); the Londonderry Development Office; the Department of the Environment Urban Fund; the DOE URBAN Fund and Derry City Council. The combined support from these bodies formed a funding package of some £1.6m.

A number of bodies have given additional support. These include The Honourable the Irish Society which enabled the Centre to commission a commemorative painting of the building. Over two hundred writers have gifted original manuscripts to the Centre and Perfecseal has funded the commissioning of a glass sculpture to house and display these.

The Department of Education for Northern Ireland (under the Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation) has supported the commissioning of a Voices-and-Images installation that depicts the rich and

diverse oral tradition from the four quarters of Ireland. Powerscreen has given financial support to help commission a Writer's Chair and Barclays Bank has helped with a donation. The Department of Economic Development (ERDF) also provided assistance.

The Verbal Arts Centre's purchase of this important building means that it will be safeguarded against dilapidation. As we enter a new century, a tradition of educational activity on and within the walls dating back to the early 1700s will be maintained and given new life. And, as we enter into a new Millennium, the city will have a building that symbolises the best that we on this island have to offer in imagination and creativity through the medium of the language arts. What better way for the city to step into a new future - the sounds of hammer and saw combining with the sounds of voices raised in poetry and song - a symphony composed of the constructive activities of making, creating and celebrating.

Buildings embody our individual and collective memories. They are the repositories of stories. By that I mean that they hold onto some of the life memories of all those who pass through in work or in play. They then release those memories, through time and across generations. Buildings stand as physical embodiments of the cultural history of a place. In this way the former First Derry School building is an important part of the community and of the city, reminding us of the contribution made by past generations.

In recognition of the importance of honouring memory, the past Pupils Association of First Derry, who have maintained a strong link with developments in their old school, have collected memorabilia and these are being displayed in the new Verbal Arts Centre.

The Centre's core purpose is to make the language arts - the world of literature, song and traditional story - available to all through creative activity and education.

*Anyone interested in finding out more about the Centre or the building is very cordially invited to make contact with its Director at the Verbal Arts Centre, Mall Wall and Stable Lane, Bishop Street Within, BT486PU.*





**The walled city, as the focus of this study, is part of the Londonderry Historic City Conservation Area. This conservation area comprises the entire Walled City, and its direct surroundings, together with two extensions (figure 1). The conservation area was designated in 1977.**

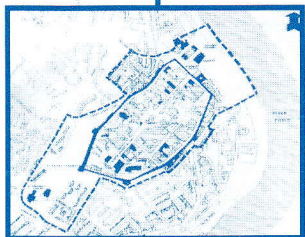


Figure 1

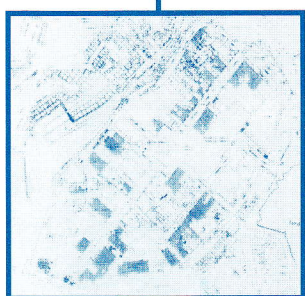


Figure 2

Elizabeth Stoit and Foppe Jorna are students of the University of Groningen, Faculty of Spatial Sciences. This article has been taken from one section of a dissertation written by them during the period April to July 2000. The work was carried out under the auspices of the Centre for Cultural Heritage, Magee College and was supervised by the Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Ulster at Coleraine.

## Heritage & Urban Regeneration: A Case Study Of **Derry/Londonderry**

ELIZABETH STOIT & FOPPE JORNA

Within the walled city, the original street pattern is still intact. There still are quite a few old buildings, mostly now listed (figure 2). Apart from St. Columba's Cathedral, all the buildings are later than the 17th century. There are some Georgian buildings, but the styles are predominantly Edwardian and Victorian (neo-classical). Besides the old and the listed buildings, there are also some modern buildings within the walls, including the Richmond Shopping Centre and Calgach Centre, a cultural centre (plate 1).

During the form/function analysis, it was found that many listed buildings do not represent their status. The city looks different from what one would expect given the weight of legislation on listed buildings and conservation (plate 2). There seems to have been considerable derogation from the legislation. There are a number of restrictions on restoring and demolition of buildings. Unfortunately, the results of the field study suggest that, in many cases, the legislation is not obeyed. Many listed buildings have new shop fronts, which are unsympathetic to the rest of the building and the setting (plate 3). Also signs and advertisements are not carefully designed and located to respect the architectural form and detailing of the building. Often the work done on a building is not of traditional, or sympathetic building materials, and techniques. There exists a proper

legislation concerning listed buildings and conservation areas, as was indicated earlier, only the fulfilment of the legislation is not there. There exists a gap between the legislation concerning conservation, and the contemporary situation in fulfilment of the legislation. The resources of the Planning Service are often stretched, and many owners of

buildings make changes on their buildings and their appearance without asking permission from the Planning Service. (Interview, O'Neill 2000)

Another finding was that many listed buildings are neglected, with vacant upper floors above shops and offices (plate 4). The owners of a business, in general, do not like to have people living above their business because of safety reasons. This problem also has a technical origin, for example, because of shared entrances it is difficult to let the upper floor for a housing function.

Apart from the problems in carrying out the legislation concerning the redevelopment of listed buildings, new developments are another problem. According to the legislation on conservation areas, development has to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area, and the development has to be in the same scale, form, materials, and detailing. Any development has to be in accordance with the area's special architectural or historic interest (Department of Environment, 1999). However, some developments within the historic city conservation area are unsympathetic to the setting, and this does not enhance the character and appearance of the area.

Not all our observations were negative, for there are some positive aspects to what is happening in the city. There are



already several buildings in the walled city, in which the restoration is done in sympathy with the setting. There are successfully restored buildings that contribute to the regeneration of the city. In addition, some developments are sympathetic to the historical and architectural setting of the area. An example of this kind of developments is the Craft Village, created in the 1990s.

The most important feature, which contributes to the setting of the walled city is, of course, the walls, themselves. They give the city a unique historic setting. The walls are very well maintained; most parts of the walls are still there, and it is possible to walk around the inner city over the walls. The walls are on the list of potential objects for the World Heritage Sites (Interview, O'Neill, 2000). In many cities the walls did not survive because of the cities' expansion, but in Derry/Londonderry the walls survived, because they have a symbolic meaning. The walls are seen by the Protestants as a symbol of victory, because the walls have never been taken by invaders. That is why the city is also called 'the Maiden City'.

Notwithstanding the symbolic meaning for the Protestants, most Catholics do not have a problem with the existence of the walls, because the walls are good for the identity and tourism of the city (Interview, Doherty, 2000).

### — General description of the streets within the — Walled City

The historic Walled City is built up on a cruciform street pattern. The streets on the axis, Bishop Street Within, Shipquay Street, Ferryquay Street and Butcher Street, form the liveliest parts of the walled city (plate 6).

The general impression of Bishop Street Within is of a well-kept street. It comprises many fine buildings such as the neo-classical Courthouse, the neo-

classical Crown and Peace office, and the Georgian Deanery. Bishop Street Within is a shopping street, apart from the part close to the gate, where the public buildings are. Most of the shops in Bishop Street Within have traditional shop fronts, and the restorations are in keeping with the original architectural style. In general, the listed buildings are well maintained, and there are only a few buildings that are vacant or need restoring. A few annoying elements, a car park and a watchtower, have a negative effect on the setting of the street.

Shipquay Street, like Bishop Street Within, has many fine buildings, but here most of the old, and often listed buildings, have modern shop fronts, modern signs and bright painting. This street has much heritage potential, but there has a lot to be done to restore the buildings in a style which is in keeping with the setting. Also the Richmond shopping centre, a modern brown-bricked building of the 1970s, has not been good for the historic setting. Apart from shops, Shipquay Street also contains many banks and public/private offices.

Ferryquay Street and Butcher Street on the other axis, lack heritage potential. In Butcher Street there is only one old and listed building left on the corner with the Diamond. Butcher Street is dominated by the Calgach Centre, a cultural centre, which is a modern grey bricked building of the 1990s. It is not very much in keeping with the historic setting. On the other side of the street a new hotel is near completion.

Ferryquay Street, in general an unremarkable shopping street, is dominated on one side by the Richmond Centre, and another big store. On the other side, there remain some old buildings, but not all the adaptations made are close to the original architectural style, all buildings



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



have new shop fronts. There are also no listed buildings in this street.

The Diamond, in the middle of the walled city, is a mixture of nineteenth century and modern buildings. Austin's, a nineteenth century Edwardian department store, is the most dominant old building in the Diamond. Richmond shopping centre on the other hand, is the most dominant modern building. The Diamond comprises besides shops and also offices. A few public/private businesses made restorations on their buildings in a style in keeping with the building, but most of the businesses have not taken much effort to fit in with the historical setting.

Most of the side streets of the main axis, including Pump Street, London Street, Artillery Street, St. Columb's Court, Society Street, Palace Street, Stable Lane, Upper and Lower Magazine Street, Castle Street and Bank Place, still look quite original, but many buildings, including listed buildings, are in a bad state of repair. Special attention is needed for Pump Street, which contains still mostly (listed) Georgian buildings (plate 6).

Other streets, Market Street, New Market Street, Linenhall Street, and Union Hall Place, add not very much to the historical character of the walled city. There are some modern buildings, and a modern looking theatre is under construction. The maintenance of most of the buildings is not striking. The new Tower Museum, dealing with the history of Derry/Londonderry, at Union Hall Place, needs to be mentioned. This reconstructed sixteenth century castle attracts many visitors. The side streets have, in general, more a housing function than the streets on the main axis. Unfortunately, much of the housing is not of high quality.

## Walled City Education Project

(Continued from page 9)

The following teachers and students were among those who participated in the Project in the year 2000-2001.

### St Columb's College

(Art classes)

**Teachers:** Mrs Phil Grant, Mr Malachy McMonagle, Ms Geraldine McGarrigle

**Students:** Jonathon Bolster, Paul Devine, Kevin O'Neill Sean Carlin, Dominic McLaughlin, Peter Keys, Conal Long, Gerard Doherty, John Taylor, Dominic Durey  
(History classes)

Teacher; Mr John Donaghey  
Students

Daniel Douglas, Sean Lynch, Felix McElhome, Shaun Ward, Shane Quinn, Anthony Bradley, Anthony Murphy, David McDaid, David Morrison, Niall McGeown, Conchur McCauley

### Templemore Secondary School

**Teacher:** Ms Gerri Cameron

**Students:** Gavin Bradley, Leon Brown, Natalie Cairns, Patricia Carson, Paul Courtney, Leanne Dunlop, Colm Gallagher, John Harkin, Terri Gallagher, Lisa McElhinney, Nicole McLaughlin, Darryl Meenan, Daniel Moore, Ruari O'Reilly, Conor Ryan, Donna O'Kane, Ruari McClintock, Sean Lockhart, James Gallon, Kevin Conaghan.

### Foyle and Londonderry College

(Art class)

**Teacher;** Mr Kevin Ward

**Students:** Kayleigh Reid, Nadia Kalam, Philip Bond, Glen Wilson. Mark Hawthorn, Alison Blake Gallagher

### Faughan Valley High School

**Teacher;** M Lorraine Graham

**Students:** Heather McFaul, Ruth Gibson, Lisa Lamrock, Leanne Griffin, Cathy Burke, Cheryl Cairns, Sheryl Thompson, Gillian Blair Elizabeth McClelland, Susan Moore Tammy Barton, Nicola McKean, Victoria Brennan, Emma Warnock



Plate 4

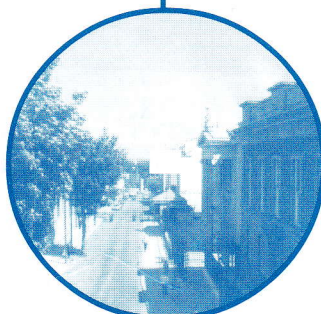


Plate 5

References: Department of the Environment, The Planning Service, 1999, Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning Service, Archaeology and the Built Heritage.

Interviews: Doherty, P., Inner City Trust, 17 May 2000  
O'Neill, A., Regeneration and Conservation Area Officer, Planning Service, Department of the Environment, 18 May 2000



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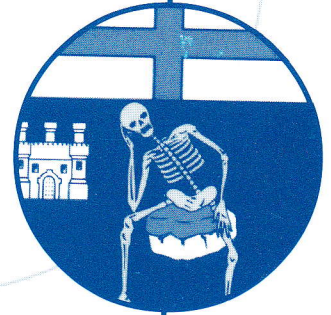
# REVIEW





The Heritage & Museum Service in Derry is one of the best examples in the country of a service which is expanding and taking on new challenges as we enter the next millennium. In the years following the opening of the Tower Museum in 1992, the range of activity within the Museum Service, which is part of Derry City Council, has grown rapidly.

The Tower Museum, already holder of both the U.K. and Irish Museum of the Year awards, now has exciting plans to add to its existing exhibits which depict the story of Derry. Preparations are under way for the O'Doherty Fort to house a special exhibition on the Spanish Armada in Ireland. It has long been the intention of the Museum Service to incorporate such an exhibition into the existing building and



Derry City Council's Museum & Heritage Service

# Challenging The Millennium

MARGARET EDWARDS

The latest addition is the Workhouse Museum in the Waterside, which was opened in 1997. This is an important project which ensures the preservation of one of the most significant buildings in the city. Working with the Western Education and Library Board and the Waterside Heritage Trust, the Museum Service has established a museum which houses a permanent exhibition on 19th century workhouse life. This exhibition deals graphically with the hardship of poverty in the 19th century, as well as dealing with the main causes and effects of the Great Famine in Ireland. Apart from its alleged ghostly inhabitants, the building itself is as an attraction which evokes the austerity and hardship of the workhouse.

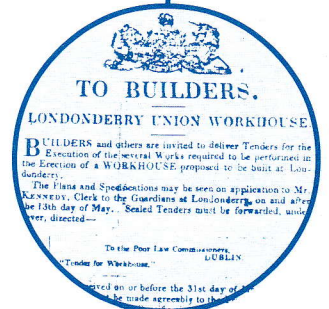
funding has been made available to advance this purpose.

## — La Trinidad Valencera —

The exhibition on the Spanish Armada will deal specifically with the objects recovered from the sunken ship, La Trinidad Valencera. In the early 1970s the City of Derry Sub-Aqua Club discovered this important ship and were subsequently involved in its excavation. Professional archaeologists were brought in to supervise the local divers, notably Dr Colin Martin from the University of St Andrews. At present the artefacts recovered from La Trinidad Valencera are housed in the Ulster Museum. However the agreement made at the time was that these objects would be returned to Derry as soon as there was a suitable venue.

Another permanent exhibition, Atlantic Memorial, dealing with the extensive part played by the city in the Second World War, is also housed in the Workhouse Museum. This exhibition has attracted great interest from local resident and visitors alike; it makes full use of audio-visual material along with artefacts to recount the importance of Derry in the Battle of the Atlantic.

This project will be of great significance and will be very important for the city internationally. It is intended to be a major exhibition on the Spanish Armada, and visitors from all parts of Europe and beyond are expected to come to view it.







The plans for the exhibition are certainly innovative and should be of great interest to people all ages. As well as looking at the political, social and religious context of the Spanish Armada, it will also provide the visitor with an insight into features of underwater archaeology such as underwater vacuuming and grid surveying. Some of the most up-to-date display techniques will be used and there will be plenty of scope for hands-on, interactive experiences.

A number of multimedia interactive programmes will be developed as an educational and instructional medium to help illustrate the story of the Spanish Armada in Ireland. It is hoped that this information will later be available on CD-ROM and posted on the Internet.



A further benefit for the Heritage and Museum Service will be the use of the current entrance to the Tower Museum as an educational space. This represents a significant expansion of the Museum Service's educational remit. It will provide the space needed to run workshops for school groups and facilitate lectures and temporary exhibitions.

### Mapping the City

Alongside these developments, two major exhibitions, "Mapping the City" and "Historic Mapping of Ireland" were put on show in the Harbour Museum. "Mapping the City" commemorated the growth and development of the city from 1600 to the present day using maps and visual images. It brought together for the first time many original maps and images of the city, on loan from various individuals and public institutions in Ireland and Britain.

This exhibition was a celebration of both the millennium and the 400th anniversary of the first map of Derry, drawn in 1600 following Sir Henry Dowcra's arrival in the city. It assembled for the first time many original maps and images of the city, on loan from various individuals and public institutions in Ireland and Britain.

Another project launched in 2000 was the Virtual Museum of Colm Cille, which was produced in partnership with the Nerve Centre. This uses modern technology to provide information in an exciting and interactive manner. The "virtual" museum contains "galleries" which "display" a select choice of manuscripts, metal objects and high crosses connected with the saint or his monasteries. It also has a "library", a "cinema" and a "children's adventure room".

The virtual museum is available in CD-ROM format and is housed in a kiosk within the Tower Museum. The users will be able to navigate their way around the virtual museum, visiting different galleries or looking at whatever particularly interests them. The CD-ROM and an accompanying education pack are on sale to the public.

This is just a taste of some of the existing and forthcoming exhibitions organised by the Heritage and Museum Service. The year 2001 promises to be another busy year and one that will bring new and exciting benefits to the city.



**Downtown Vienna bears the stamp of Frans Joseph who ordered the creation of the great Ringstrasse Boulevard which circles the historic centre of the city, with the medieval Cathedral of the Stephensdom forming a pivotal heart. Gathered around are the Hofburg Quarters, reminding the visitor of the extensive empire that once was.**

sixty years earlier, he startled the urban scene with a bizarre apartment block full of colour, varied height, exotic roofline and sprinkled with balconies oozing trees and shrubs climbing up walls and over roofs.

The Hundertwasser Haus is a municipal apartment block provided by the Vienna City Council where each apartment is delineated by different colours,

Viennese Painter/Architect.

# Friedensreich Hundertwasser

J. J. TRACEY

The Boulevard was completed in the 1880s. Today trams trundle along the wide sweeping thoroughfare and it is an excellent relaxing exercise to sit in one of these trams and view the myriad of building types of nineteenth century Vienna displayed in a bewildering kaleidoscope of architectural styles.

Beyond the Boulevard, beyond the Townhall and Museum Quarter, the Belvedere, Schottenring and Opera and Naschmarkt areas, modern architecture makes inroads as the dominant architectural style. Art Nouveau and the Jugendstil of Otto Wagner and Josef Hoffmann and Gustav Klimt had taken over from the decaying Hapsburg period which was likewise being abandoned by architects like Adolf Loos, who abhorred ornament, and began to use smooth clean lines and stylish elegant interiors.

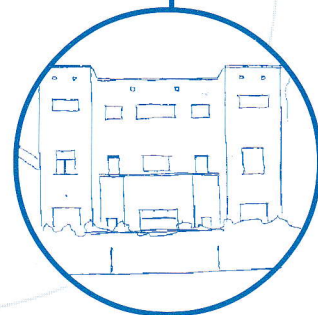
Not all the exponents of the modern style had Loos' sensitivity and the public found the new architecture not to its liking. A number of artist/architects were like minded and in the second half of the twentieth century the artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser felt that the clinical, unappealing, utilitarian urban landscape needed emotion, colour and vibrancy to enliven its buildings and add spice and variety to people's locality and interior habitations. Like the Spanish architect, Anton Gaudi, almost

irregularly spaced windows, and cantilevered enclosed staircases popping out of the middle of walls. With arcades and, incongruously, a soaring glass polygonal stairway; the building rises in a series of stages to ten floors.

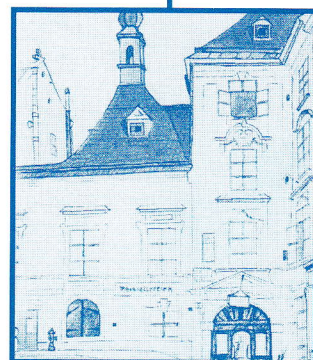
Hundertwasser obtained the commission by lobbying Viennese politicians and professional architects refused to collaborate with him so the city council assigned a staff of architects to assist him. Bizarre as the apartment block is, particularly in the context of an otherwise conventional street, it attracts throngs of visitors, like Gaudi's buildings in Barcelona.

It is a tourist authority's dream, possessing a busy shop dispensing all sorts of illustrations of the artist's work. There are no vacant apartments in this block and in its midst a delightful café, all part of the ensemble. It has been described as "more like a stage set for Hansel and Gretel" than a block of council flats.

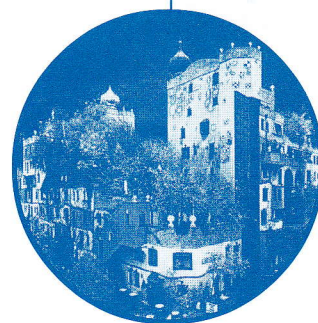
Some of Vienna's older buildings are full of colour too, if a little severe in the hard lines of geometrical patterns as in the roof slating of the Stephendom and the conical roof of the Favoriten Water Tower constructed in 1889 as part of a municipal scheme for the transportation of drinking water.



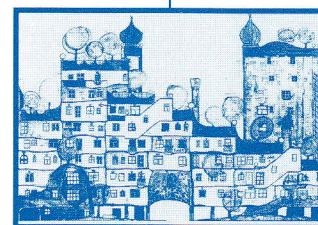
Steiner House, Vienna. Loos, 1910



Schonlaterngasse 1943



The Hundertwasser House



Elevation Sketch, Hundertwasser House



## DERRY - LONDONDERRY

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SAM BURNSIDE

---

Out there, oarsmen pull on oars of  
white light,  
They transport the innocent and the guilty.

---

From where you stand, the air is thick  
with presences  
And melodies of water and light and sky;  
The mediations of stops and intersections  
Of arrivals and departures, of scores  
Of woven passages, time and people-laid  
Layer upon ingeminate layer  
Indented by toe and heel  
Of Pagan, Druid, Catholic,  
Protestant, Dissenter, Jew.

---

The wind blows and singularity goes:  
Braced lines tremble, crossing and  
re-crossing.

---

One is walking with her lover to the  
dock gates  
Another is setting sail, cradling salt  
and bread  
An angel wears a balaclava  
A devil is dressed in robes of white  
Above, out of restless constellations,  
A fixed star shines on children whose  
shades brush  
The sheeted water; gossamer ghosts of  
grey seabirds  
Caught in sunlight, their forms play on the  
nervous skin  
Of our world. Now, against the mullioned  
night it is  
Their limbs of white light you see,  
rising and falling.

---

On the bank side  
Drilled in rock-footed soil  
Two reed rows bend towards the Foyle  
Their thin arms conduct the flowing rifts  
and rills.

---

Meantime,  
We shall not deny any one part:  
The pieces will not fall asunder.

---

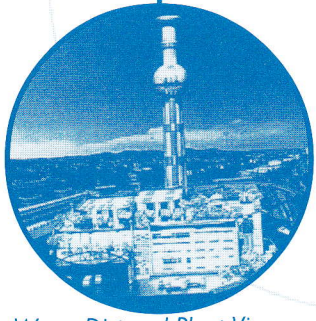
<sup>1</sup> This part of the title indicates a point on the banks of the Foyle, directly in line with the front door of the new City Council offices and facing St Columb's Park on the Waterside.

Hundertwasser's apartment block made an impact in 1985 and he has been successful in securing other commissions. Among them service stations, green housing to merge with the landscape and children's day centre.

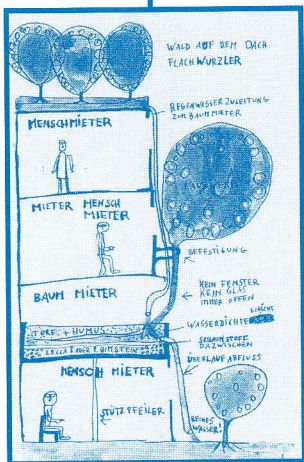
In 1988 he completed a replacement of a 1944 church at Bärnbach. The church of St Barbara is a simple planned small church, reminiscent of Planters Gothic, a hall and square tower surmounted by a gilded onion dome, pitched roof gaily decorated in colour. He added life, gaiety and vitality to the City of Vienna's waste disposal plant whose energy provides electricity and he designed the Kunsthaus Wein which is an art gallery displaying contemporary works including those of Hundertwasser.

Hundertwasser enjoys an international reputation. He was born in 1928 in Vienna and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts there. Originally influenced by Surrealism he developed a more abstract style interspersed with figurative references after the manner of Klint and the Sezession painters. Some of his work would remind one of Paul Klee's paintings. He travelled a lot, spending periods in Paris, Italy, United States, Morocco, Tunisia, New Zealand, Philippines and Senegal. In New Zealand he purchased a large tract of land and planted trees on it from all over the world. The roof of the farmhouse he dwelt in he painted a luminous sky-blue. His was a green architecture; nobody should be permitted to dispose of waste. He had a concept of houses under meadows. Standardisation should be overcome by mixing and combining mass produced elements - doorknobs, windows, doors, decoration - in novel ways.

Friedensreich Hundertwasser died on February 19, 2000 almost 72 years of age.



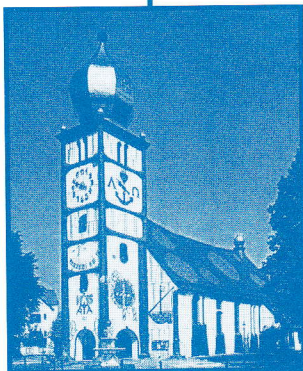
Waste Disposal Plant, Vienna.



Favoriten Water Tower, 1889



Model Of Housing, Hügelwiesenland



St. Barbara's Church, Bärnbach



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# REVIEW



**ALTNAGELVIN WARD** lies on the eastern edge of Derry city. It consists of four town lands: **Ardnabrocky**, - 'the hill of the badger warren'; **Kilfinnan**, - 'Finan's wood'; **Lisnagelvin**, - 'Magilligan's fort'; and appearance in early times, but no trace remains within the Ward of pre- Altnagelvin, - 'the hill of the sparrows'. Their translation into English<sup>1</sup> gives some idea of their Plantation structures. More rural townlands further along the Faughan valley have remains of the 'raths' or circular homesteads that must have existed in this location also.

many churches in the region its foundation is attributed to St Columbkille. A townland nearby- Cromkille - has been used by some to justify this link.<sup>3</sup> The church was originally associated with the 'Ui Mac Caorthain' who were supplanted by the Clan Dermott.

After the Plantation of the 1600s it became the property of the Church of Ireland but only after being burnt in the general upheaval. It was burnt again in the 1641 rebellion, and later became the focus for the first Presbyterian congregation in the area. During the Cromwellian period many ministers



Clondermott Church

The Buildings Of

## Altnagelvin Ward

MANUS DEERY

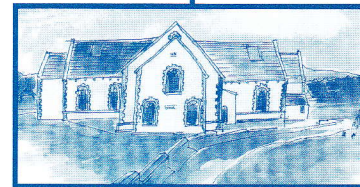
For most of the medieval period the Gaelic Clan Dermott held sway over this area. In the early period (Ninth to Thirteenth centuries) the O'Caireallan family were overlords. From the middle of the Twelfth Century the O'Cathan sept increased in power. However, this rule may have been interrupted by the Anglo-Normans in the Twelfth century. Across the Faughan from Ardnabrocky, Fincarn Glen contains an earthwork marked on recent Ordnance survey maps as a 'motte' or Norman Castle. There are arguments about the accuracy of this label however, as this location is far outside the accepted sphere of influence of the Normans. Though identified as a fort, the natural contours of the land may explain its particular layout.<sup>2</sup>

One nearby structure, which certainly has played an important role in the lives of the people of Altnagelvin, is Clondermott Church. Not much remains of this structure located within a graveyard to the south of the Ward along the Glendermott Valley, but it was a focal point from its reputed construction in the sixth century to the end of the eighteenth century. As with

subscribed to the Presbyterian form of worship. With the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 the House of Lords decreed that all incumbent ministers had to 'submit to Episcopal ordination or quit' if not, 'they will answer to the contrary at their peril'.<sup>4</sup>

The minister of Glendermott (as Clondermott was by then known) refused to do so and hung on for a further five years until leaving with a substantial number of worshippers to found the Glendermott Presbyterian congregation nearby. The location of their meeting place is not known.

The present Glendermott Presbyterian church dates from 1696 and is the oldest surviving structure in Altnagelvin Ward. Its erection is recorded on a plaque near the south porch: 'How amiable are thy tabernacles o Lord ms. John Avery 1696'. Originally it was a rectangular barn church but in 1747 it was extended into a 'T' shaped plan. A small painted plaque high up on the west gable reads: 'Rev'd William Hair 1747'. Another plaque also records the

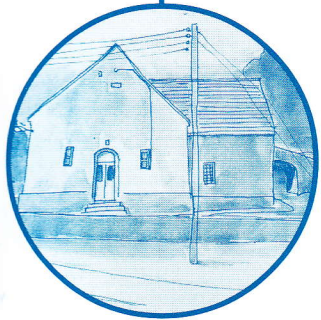


Glendermott Presbyterian Church





Brookhill House



Second Glendermott  
Presbyterian Church

addition of porches and the extension of an aisle in 1938. Inside, it has a simple well-maintained and calm church space. There are two plaques to the dead of the World Wars, a carefully detailed pulpit, a large organ, and three balconies. Originally the church's congregation were drawn from as far away as Claudy, eighteen miles distant.<sup>5</sup>

In the Plantation much of Altnagelvin Ward became the property of the Goldsmiths Company - one of the London Guilds who controlled most of the new county of Londonderry. Their main settlement around the required 'bawn' or fortified house was at Newbuildings, though farms would have been established throughout the area.<sup>6</sup> Ardnabrocky townland however, was part of lands belonging to the Pre-Plantation church and were transferred to the Church of Ireland as a result. It is here that the one estate house to be located in the Ward was built - Brookhill House.

The peaceful eighteenth century was a busy time for building throughout Ireland. There was so much to be rebuilt and the new landed gentry had no longer to worry about defensible enclosures. Brookhill House, which is situated on the Ardrough Road, housed the landlord of the Church lands to the north-east of the city. Started in 1795 by the judge Mr James Brooke<sup>7</sup>, it is still largely intact and follows a common Georgian plan. Through a central entrance there is a wide hall with a staircase. To each side there are large reception rooms with a kitchen and a dining room behind forming a square plan. Outside, it has four sashed windows flanking a central door with fanlight and a more ornate porch in front from the Victorian era.

The second storey has five windows above under a hipped slate roof. In front of the house the ground falls steeply into the remains of an ornamental garden. On the other side of the valley a smaller classical house - Fincarin Cottage - terminates the vista. It was undoubtedly built by the same landlord.

Another house of the period and thought to be slightly older is Millbrook House. This is easily spotted from Glendermott Road because of its half-timbered painting. This decoration is an addition of recent times and there have been many changes to the original building. However, its very thick walls and old hall doors reveal its age. It is reputed to have been built as the Presbyterian Manse, though its name also suggests some association with the former mill once located a quarter of a mile away. It has a very interesting garden to the rear with ten tall trees, by their size as old as the house. Local tradition holds that there were once thirteen of these planted to commemorate the thirteen apprentice boys of the Siege of Derry.

Another building associated with the Presbyterian congregation is the Cosy Inn located on the other side of Glenshane Road. This is reported to have been the manse of the Second Glendermott Presbyterian Congregation before the building of the present manse in the 1860s. The building was a single storey thatched cottage in use as a pub when it accidentally burnt down on armistice night 1918.

The present building was built from the old walls and the longer walls of the cottage can still be seen as the buttressed street wall of the adjoining store.<sup>8</sup> According to Historic Monuments records, one of two ancient stones found in the townland is built into the wall of the pub. These are 'bullauns' or pounding stones. The other stone is supposed to be on a roadside nearby.<sup>9</sup>

The Second Glendermott Presbyterian Congregation was formed in 1744 when a disagreement on doctrinal matters occurred between the minister of the First Congregation and his elders. Her left and set up the new congregation. Their church, which is still standing, is located at the bottom of Church Brae and is presently used as McCarter's Carpet Warehouse. Over the door is a small plaque: 'W Hare 1744'. It is an interesting simple 'T'shaped church with



sloping or 'battered' exterior walls and a ramped access to first floor. It was used as a church until the First World War when the two congregations reunited. At that time the minister of the second congregation died, and the minister of the first retired.<sup>10</sup> It functioned as the church hall until the 1970s when the present hall was built. Next door on Church Brae is the former sexton's cottage.

In 1753 the Church of Ireland decided to move from Ivy Church (as Clondermott was then known) to their present location at the top of Church Brae. They built a simple one-aisled church with gothic windows which has been added to over the years. In 1789 the belfry was added at a cost of £500. Bishop Hervey, the Earl of Bristol, (who built the Mussenden Temple at Downhill near Castlerock) supported the erection of a copper-covered spire in 1794, but this was blown down in 1831.<sup>11</sup> The present gallery and side aisle were added after the evangelism of Reverend Babington in the 1860s dramatically increased the congregation. Architects were Welland and Gillespie.<sup>12</sup>

In 1982 Caroline Dickson Architects extended the front porch. Inside all the windows contain stained glass. Two windows donated by the Knox family of Prehen came from Germany. A Beresford Ash window is also of note as is a large marble monument to the Ashbrook family. Of the more modern windows, the Colonel Crawford Memorial Window is interesting. It shows a fish inside a dove with the sun bursting behind. In the entrance courtyard is the war memorial with a soldier playing the last post. It is unusual as the dedication is to the UVF rather than to a specific regiment.

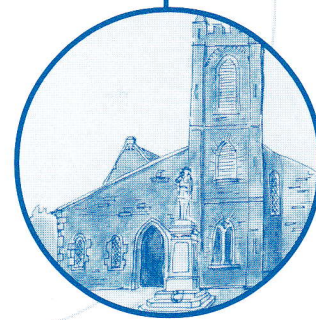
During the period of the Penal Laws (1700 -1829) when the practice of religion was restricted, Catholics from the Ward worshipped at concealed 'mass rocks' at Ardmore and in Fincarn Glen. With relaxation of the persecution, a chapel was built at Ardmore in 1791 accommodating 560 people at an expense of £400. When

the Ordnance Survey visited in 1835 this was in 'bad repair'. A new chapel in the Waterside (the present St Columba's) was 'in contemplation to be built'.<sup>13</sup> Worship continued at Ardmore and the old church was finally replaced by a new structure in the field opposite in the 1930s.

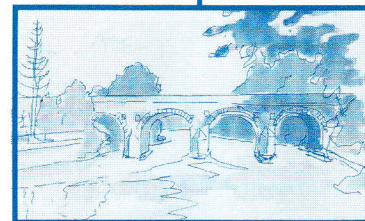
Drumahoe Bridge is another structure erected during the eighteenth century. A clear construction date cannot be established but its design is similar to many in the area constructed in the second half of the century. When the main coach road to Belfast was re-routed over the bridge in the mid-nineteenth century its width was doubled. The original road from the city went up Fountain Hill from the Waterside, down Church Brae in Altnagelvin, to Dungiven via Ardmore, Claudy, and Feeny. The revised road, cutting out the settlements, was much shorter to Dungiven but was vigorously opposed for many years by the landlords of Claudy and Feeny who successfully delayed its adoption until the middle of the century.<sup>14</sup> The extension to the bridge can be quite clearly seen underneath. In addition to a noticeable joint, one half has projecting stones which supported the formwork during construction.

Adjoining the bridge on the Altnagelvin side is a coaching inn - The Three Mile House, which suffered a bad fire in 1985 and has since been extensively renovated. The inn dates from at least the 1830s. On the other bank outside the ward are the remains of a mill now converted into a house, a former school now used as an Orange hall, a fine Covenanters meeting hall now known as the Glendermott Reformed Presbyterian Church dating from 1786, and a sexton's house.

The first modern map of the area was published in 1818 to accompany Sampson's Statistical Survey. This and the more detailed Ordnance Survey six-inch map of 1830 show a rural settlement pattern of buildings which include a cluster of houses around the cross roads at the bottom of the



Glendermott Church Of Ireland



Drumahoe Bridge





Agnes Jones House

Church Brae, more houses near a mill further along the Faughan, and a number of farmhouses in Kilfinan, Lisnagelvin, and Ardnabrocky. Most of the farmhouses are now gone but some of their outbuildings, dating at least from the 1830s, remain.

The mill is one of a number indicated along the River Faughan and reflects a common pattern of rural industry in Ulster at that time. The linen industry, though concentrated in an area to the south of Lough Neagh, was so prosperous that most rivers in the north had their own mill buildings. By the 1830s, however, the production of linen had passed its peak as imports of cotton from the Americas were cutting demand. 1835 was a disastrous year as the price of cotton dropped dramatically forcing many mills to close or adapt to other production.

Two flax mills were located opposite the ward in Drumahoe. A mile upstream at Ardmore was a bleach green and mill - another part of the process. The Altnagelvin mill under the line of the present Glenshane Road was a grain mill. Many linen mills were later converted to this function. The grain mill is described by the Ordnance Survey Memoirs of 1831-8 as: 'Remarkable for the excellence of its construction. It has a breast wheel turned by the Glendermott stream, and is dry in summer.'<sup>15</sup>

Very little change was evident in the revised Ordnance Survey six-inch map of 1848. The main road to Belfast had become the road over Drumahoe Bridge. A school had been opened near the Church of Ireland on Church Brae. Overall, the area remained very rural. Over the next forty years however, there was a great change in the character of area as result of the expansion of the nearby city. This is reflected in the houses and villas of the merchant classes located mainly on the slopes of Altnagelvin overlooking the Faughan River. Strathmore House at the foot of Daly's Brae was built circa 1860 reputedly to house the mistress of Mr Brook of Brookhill. Ten years later it was the manse of the First Presbyterian

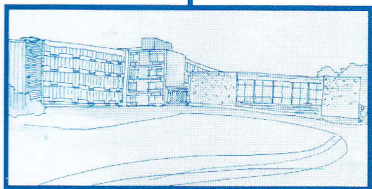
Church and remained as such until after the First World War. Across Daly's Brae, Brookmount was built in 1870 by Thompson's Builders Suppliers of Duke Street. The Thompson family lived in the house until the late 1950s. Thompsons also built Glendermott Manse at the crossroads at the same date. All three houses have a similar square plan containing the formal rooms and a projecting kitchen return with stables to the rear. Their differences are in their decorative ornament.

Bella Vista House to the north east, is a larger and more ornate building with projecting bay windows. It was built circa 1888 by the Smyth Family owners of Drumahoe Mills (which closed in 1922). Further up the hill towards the present hospital, Grovemount house is a Victorian redevelopment of an earlier farmhouse. It is a small house with decorative treatment typical of the turn of the century. A pump and well survive in the front garden.

### Kilfinan House

Kilfinan house was also built in 1888 by a different Smyth family who were owners of the adjoining farm (now built over by suburban housing) and is one of the few farmhouses of the Ward to have survived more recent developments. It follows the common square plan with projecting kitchen. It is simply detailed to the front similar to a Georgian style house. To the rear the design of its kitchen return reveals its later construction date: it has an off centre roof with a sweeping parapet on the gable, - details associated with Arts and Crafts movement of the turn of this century. Surviving barns nearby pre-date 1830.

The largest of the Late Victorian houses in the ward is Agnes Jones House. Its adjoining land was used as the site for the present hospital and the building is now a nurses' home. Built in the 1890s, it was the residence of the Eaton family who had a successful bakery in the city. Mr Eaton was an amateur architect and designed the house himself. It has an elaborate three storied facade with servants' quarters in the third floor



Nurses Home,  
Altnagelvin



attic. Inside there is much care taken on details such as plasterwork and balustrading. There is a fireplace in the hallway as well as in the main reception rooms and a second servant staircase. The house and lands were bought in 1946 by the Ministry of Health and Local Government as a site for a new 'provincial hospital'.<sup>16</sup> Agnes Jones was a nurse from the north west who accompanied Florence Nightingale to the Crimean War. A plaque commemorates her in the Church of Ireland at Fahan Co. Donegal.

## — Twentieth century —

The Ward has developed rapidly in the Twentieth century. A row of county council funded cottages on Church road dating from 1911 are one of a number of such developments erected by Londonderry County Council for rural populations at the time and are based on an interpretation of the traditional cottage form.

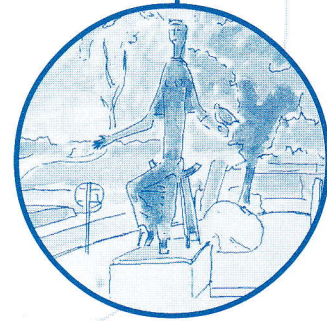
Local casualties from the two World Wars are commemorated in plaques and graves in both the Presbyterian and Church of Ireland churches. The catholic graveyard at Ardmore also has its war graves along with the grave of a republican activist who died during internment in the Second World War. One result of this war, was the erection of an American Naval communication base at the boundary of Altnagelvin and Lisnagelvin during the 1950s. This functioned until 1975 when improvements in technology made the station obsolete. It acted as a relay station between the US and Europe and, as such, was reputed to be the target of a Soviet nuclear warhead. Much of the site was demolished in the early 1980s to make way for a B&Q store. Some original sheds remain and are used for storage purposes by the DoE Road Service.

For over a hundred years ending with the local government reorganisation of 1972, the western edge of Altnagelvin Ward defined the boundary of the city. A rusting cast iron boundary post with the legend 'Londonderry Corporation

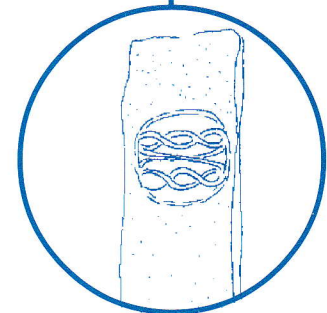
1864' could be seen at Woodburn traffic lights until 1998. A second post located at the junction of Irish Street with Knockwellan Park was removed during the 1980s.

The second major post-war development in the Ward was the construction of the District General Hospital at Altnagelvin, in the grounds of Agnes Jones House. Designed by Yorke Rosenberg and Mardall architects of London, it was the first purpose built hospital of the new National Health Service, and it attracted world wide interest when opened in 1966. The spirit of the new hospital was summed up in a sculpture placed at the entrance. 'Princess Macha' by F.E. McWilliams depicts a woman sitting on a seat holding a dove with one hand and beckoning with the other. The woman, partially abstracted, is Princess Macha who, in the third century, is said to have built the first hospital in Irish history at Eman Macha outside Armagh. The dove symbolises St Columba - Dove of the Church, who founded the Monastery of Derry. Like a patron spirit of the new building, Princess Macha welcomes all to the successor of her hospital, - the first of a new era of health care. The architecture of the surrounding buildings reflected this theme of past and present: Rough local materials were chosen similar to those used in past buildings. These were contrasted with modern materials and modern approaches to planning with the buildings set in a landscaped park.

Since the 1960s, there have been extensions and changes to the complex reducing its architectural unity and quality. A major 'nucleus' hospital extension to the front in the 1980s, recladding in the early 1990s and further extensions at present have combined to obscure the clarity of the original design. In the most untouched building on the site the architecture of the original design can still be understood. This is the nurses' home and theatre. Here, the functions of different parts of the building are clearly expressed on the exterior, - helped by the use of contrasting materials.



Princess Macha



Standing Stone,  
Altnagelvin Hospital



1 The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland Vol. 34, pp 57-75. 'Derivation of Townland names'

2 Historic Buildings Records LDY 14:5: 'This earthwork in a naturally defensive location has been identified as a probable motte (McNeill Ulster Journal of Archaeology 38, 1975 p. 49 no 118). Despite its resemblance to a motte and bailey there are doubts about this identification based on the extent to which its form is a response to the natural topography rather than an intentional design, and its location so far outside the area of Anglo-Norman settlement. It is however, clearly a man-made feature of some antiquity.'

3 The History of the Parish of Glendermott by Rev J Coulter p. 5. See also Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland Vol. 34, p. 45.

4 Taken from 'Glendermott Parish Church' by Sam Starrett April 1990 - Glendermott Church records.

5 Colonel Adam Murray of Ling near Claudy is commemorated as a siege hero on a plaque in the church.

6 The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland, Vol. 34 p. 59.

7 Information related by owner.

8 Information related by Mr T Waters nearby resident. No report in the Derry Journal of November 1918.

9 See Historic Buildings Records LDY 14:17

10 History of the Presbyterian Congregations of Ireland by Killen refers to 'both congregations being vacant in 1910'. Information on reasons for vacancy was obtained from Mr McCarter at the second church.

11 The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland Vol. 34, p. 23.

12 See 'Reverend Babington' by Sam Starrett 1991 - Glendermott Church records.

13 The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland Vol. 34, p. 5.

14 The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland Vol. 30, 'Mid - Londonderry' p. 31.

15 The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland Vol. 34, p. 21.

16 See 'Altnagelvin Thirty Glorious Years' By Cahal Dallat, 1990.

Textured dash and stone to allude to older methods of construction.

Another major change to the ward in the 1960s was the extension of Glenshane Road from Drumahoe directly to Altnagelvin Hospital, bypassing the old bridge. This was completed in 1967 and has radically altered travel through the ward and into the city. Part of the project was the construction of a unique soaring parabolic road bridge as the new road ramping up into the city passes over Church Road. This has reinforced concrete walls over half a metre thick and a street lamp in the tall space underneath. It is not the normal dark concrete tunnel associated with road developments of the 1960s. It was designed by Sir Derek Halcrow and Partners of London.

Since the relaxation of the city development boundary, there has been a massive change in the character and population of the ward. Housing developments particularly in Kilfinan, and Lisnagelvin have combined with smaller 1960s estates in Altnagelvin to create a suburban pattern. This has been complemented with new roads (the crescent link 1980), a satellite shopping centre at Lisnagelvin (1974-1984), playing facilities at Lisnagelvin and Altnagelvin (1981-1995), and a new church at Lisnagelvin for the Free Presbyterian Congregation (1979). A church has been built in Kilfinan for the relocated Second Derry congregation (1982), and also at Kilfinan for The Londonderry Baptist Church (1994).

These developments have taken place against the backdrop of the renewed strife of the troubles dating from 1969 and the resulting population shift within the Derry City Council area as the protestant population has largely left the 'Derryside' of the city and moved across the river. The ward however is more characterised by the split between

the older rural population of the ward in the Faughan valley (regarded as Drumahoe) and the suburban population of the expanding city above than by any larger sectarian generalisation.

Of recent developments in the ward, another sculpture in the grounds of Altnagelvin hospital is the most interesting. Near Princess Macha, it is one of a number of granite standing stones planted throughout the north west in 1992 by Slovenian artist Marko Pogacnik. Part of his 'Derry-Donegal landscape sculpture,' the stone he claimed was like an acupuncture pin in the landscape. With its carved cosmogramme representing the surrounding area, it restores the natural balance to the region 'destroyed' by centuries of development. A second stone is located just east of the ward at

Letershandoney, another is located west in St Columb's Park another south west on Corrody hill. Thirteen others are located on the west bank of the Foyle and in Donegal.

Located by divining rod, the Altnagelvin stone has recently been moved to make way for the new extension of the hospital so perhaps its effectiveness has been compromised.

Whatever the merits of Pogacnik's justification, the sculpture as one part of a larger group acts as a good metaphor for the dependence of this Ward with those around it. Part of a wider picture, Altnagelvin has however been uniquely shaped by those processes over time.



The Trust was involved in a range of activities during the year 1999-2000 but three projects particularly absorbed its attention. One of these centred on its effort to gain major financial aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund for an important conservation and development scheme in the city. The second involved an educational project and exhibition featuring the work of a number of local schools.

Verbal Arts Centre in June of the work of three local schools in a project studying the buildings and history of the east side of Bishop Street within the Walls. This programme - The Walled City Education Project - is reported in more detail elsewhere in this issue of the Review.

The third area of particular concern during the year was the ensuring of funds for the Trust's ongoing activities, and the Trust was most grateful to the

A Brief Report On Two Years Of The Trust's Activities

## Foyle Civic Trust At Work

The third project was the familiar one of raising finance for the ongoing work of the Trust.

The first of these tasks was the continuation of the Trust's effort to see established a new major renewal scheme in the central city area. In the course of this a grouping called the The Walled City Heritage Group was formed. This brought together representatives from the Foyle City Trust itself, the Derry City Council, the Londonderry Development Office, the City Centre Initiative and the Planning Service.

An application for a major grant had been submitted under the Townscape Heritage Initiative linked to the Lottery Fund. The first result had been to receive a grant of £10,000 for the purpose of employing consultants to assist in fine-tuning the application.

The consultants selected were Manor Architects and the final document was presented in the summer of 2000. The response of the Lottery Heritage authorities was eagerly awaited.

The second major project of the year culminated in an exhibition in the

Londonderry Development Office, its major funder. It greatly appreciated the interest shown in its work by Mr Jim Foster during his term of office. The Trust was also keenly conscious of the support and contribution to its funding given by the Derry City Council.

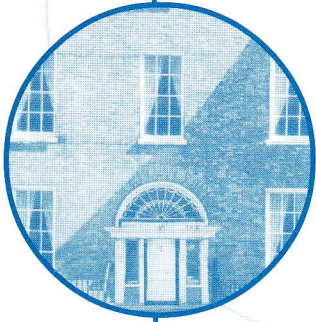
### — Monitoring applications —

The Trust continuously monitored planning applications brought to the City Council, and made submissions when thought appropriate. The effort to avoid the demolition of some fine buildings has not always been successful, but the presence of the Trust has been recognised.

The Diamond apartment block on the Strand Rd. was an example of a successful intervention by the Trust which had objected to the nine-storey development on the grounds that it departed from the stepped roof space pattern in the city. The developers made a presentation in the Trust office, and eventually agreement was reached to remove two floors from the plans for the building.

The Trust's presence was also noted by the invitation to Mr Bert





Montgomery to be a director of the City Partnership Board, and for Mrs Mary McLaughlin to join the Environment Committee. During the year, the Trust became involved in other local issues such as the Limavady Town Hall demolition plan, the demolition proposal concerning Claudy Church, and the Brook Park restoration. And these were not the only issues. It also participated in the Pride in our City campaign to improve the cleanliness and general appearance of the city centre.

Trust members were also invited to make an input into other events such as a training day for guides in March and a Historic Buildings Council event in May. At the latter Annesley Malley and Martina O'Donnell both gave presentations. The Trust later conducted a Walls of Derry Architectural trail as part of a Millennium event.

The year's AGM was held in the Verbal Arts Centre on May 31 at which the guest lecturer was Mr Richard Kirwan, chief executive of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, who spoke on the history of the Survey. A tour of the newly restored Centre was then conducted by Mrs Bernie Kilroy.

The Trust was also happy to welcome two young people who came to the office on work placements. Elisa Bianchi from Anchona, Italy came for ten weeks, spending most of her time cataloguing an archive that was made available to the Trust. Declan Boyle from Miller Street in the city at the time of the Walled City Education Project exhibition, and was able to provide a digital record of the children's work and the Exhibition, for which the Trust is grateful.

The Trust facilitated two other young people - Elizabeth Stoit and Foppe Jorna, students in the faculty of spatial sciences of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. They have contributed an

account of their work to this present issue of the Review.

A number of enjoyable visits and tours should be recorded. In May 1999 a memorable and well-attended outing took place to Baronscourt at which the members were graciously made welcome by the Duke of Abercorn. In July 2000, Annesley Malley led a group of Trust members to the Mapping the City Exhibition in the Harbour Museum, mentioned elsewhere in this issue. The group then went on to St Augustine's Church where they heard a talk by Mr Roy Hamilton.

Later the same month, a group of Trust members and friends went on a most interesting visit to Downpatrick Cathedral and to the house and estate at Castleward, a property of the National Trust. A short ferry trip brought the party for a pleasant stop at the Portaferry Hotel.

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## 2000 - 2001

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The two major projects currently being undertaken by the Trust continued to occupy much attention in the year 2000-2001. The first of these was the effort to gain final approval and major funding for a renewal and heritage scheme in a section of the inner city conservation area. The second was to continue the Walled City Education Project in collaboration with a range of schools from the city area.

Reports on the progress of both these projects appear elsewhere in this issue of the Review. In both case there is much reason for satisfaction and encouragement. The Walled City Education Project this year culminated in a striking and admired exhibition of the students' research and graphic work, which was opened by the Mayor, Mr Cathal Crumley, in the Verbal Arts Centre on June 8, 2001.

The application for a major grant under the Townscape Heritage Initiative



scheme, linked to Lottery funding, was brought to the very brink of success. The scheme involved an ambitious renewal and heritage plan for a section of the city close to the Walls. The work of adjusting and refining details of the scheme was continued during the year, and optimism grew about the success of the application.

### — Planning Applications —

The Trust continued its work of monitoring planning applications for the Derry City Council and Limavady District Council areas. This is done with the assistance of the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society. The procedure involves study of the application lists, the viewing of selected applications in the Regional Planning Office, discussion of relevant matters at the Civic Trust's monthly meetings and the sending, if thought necessary, of written comments to the Planning Office. A representative of the Trust will normally attend as an observer at the public meetings of the planning committee of the Derry City Council.

An example of the Trust's involvement was its comment on the application to demolish the former McCrea Chambers in Crawford Square and replace it with a hostel accommodation and residence scheme. In the end, the scheme to develop the site was basically approved. Another example was the Trust's submission on an application for consent to demolish 31, Fincairn Road, Drumahoe, a listed building. This application went to appeal. A further example was the written contribution which the Trust made to the consultation launched by the Port and Harbour Commissioners on the future development of the Fort George site on the riverside.

Some other activities may be mentioned. A lively and informative talk on the Derry Area Plan 2000 -2025 was given in the Tower Museum by Pat Quinn of the Derry Regional Planning Service. Later, at the annual general meeting on May 31, 2001, Robert O'Byrne of the Irish Times spoke to an interested audience on some of the celebrated 18th century buildings of Dublin. Another pleasant occasion took place in the Mayor's parlour in the Guildhall when the Foyle Civic Trust was one of 66 groups or individuals who were presented with a Quay Pin in recognition of services to the city community. This Quay Pin was designed by the artist Locky Morris.

There were changes in the Trust Office during the year. The Education Officer, Martina O'Donnell, who was heavily involved in the first year of the Walled City Education Project and its successful exhibition, moved on to other activities, and was succeeded in the post by Aileen McGinnis who likewise played a major role in the second year of the Project and its equally successful exhibition. The Trust was grateful to both officers for their work, and remains grateful also to the Department for Social Development which is funding the Project through the Londonderry Initiative.

The summer outing for 2000 took place to Inishowen where St Columb's, Moville, Malin House, and St Mura's, Fahan were among the sites visited. The group was graciously entertained at her house in Fahan by Caroline Dickson.

*(Thanks are due to Martina O'Donnell and Marianne Gallagher for providing the material for this report.)*







Bartholomew McCorkell

The house in Londonderry originally called Richmond' was built in 1845 by David Watt of Watt's Distillery.. David Watt died on the 22nd April 1876 and was buried in the graveyard of St. Columb's Cathedral.

Bartholomew McCorkell, whose father William had built up the fleet of William McCorkell and Company, purchased the house. He kept the name 'Richmond' but changed the plain building into what it is today by extending it and redesigning its interior. The gate lodge at the Strand road end of the property was erected by David Watt with an extension added later.

1860 and it passed to a lawyer Thomas Chambers. Around 1900 the house passed to Sir John McFarland's family, who retained the name 'Aberfoyle'. Sir John died there in 1926 and three years later his son Sir Basil purchased Richmond and renamed it. He also renamed the old house (completed in 1865) in the grounds of Magee 'Talbot House' after his mother's maiden name. Talbot House was sold to Magee in 1937, and the Trustees named it Dill house after the Rev. Richard Dill. This house has been demolished to make way for the new college buildings.

During the Second World War the Aberfoyle was used by the American navy as an officers' mess. An underground tunnel ran from the



## The History Of

# Aberfoyle House

ANNESLEY MALLEY

The owner of Richmond - Bartholomew McCorkell - died on the 6th January 1887 aged 82 leaving the house to his wife Frances. On her death in 1895 it passed to her daughter Evelyn McCorkell (born 1851) who married Robert Corscadden from Boomhall but who had no children. After Robert's death in 1904 she commissioned the architect Sir Thomas Drew to design the new Chapter House for St Columb's Cathedral. She died in 1922 and her painting hangs in the Chapter House. Richmond was passed to her nephew Lt. Col. Hugh Collum who died in 1929 and on that date Richmond was sold to Sir Basil McFarland who renamed it Aberfoyle. Sir Basil erected the red gates and today his monogram can still be seen in the middle of each of them.

basement to underground shelters which were situated in the grounds of Magee. These were filled in during the construction of the University.

On the death of Sir Basil McFarland in 1986, Aberfoyle was sold to Mr Bobby Bell who later sold it in two lots to the City Council in 1987 and 1990. It was finally purchased by the University of Ulster in 1998.



## Our Thanks

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**Our ancient monuments are increasingly under threat and in the relative calm of the Inishowen peninsula, the danger is great. Not too long ago, I visited an ancient 'bog wall' site which was being reclaimed. In a landscape where farming as a way of life is on the decline, the acres of newly sown grass are indeed a pleasant and healthy site, but the cost to our ancient stone heritage is high. The Ceide Fields in county Mayo are well known for their ancient system of bog walls hidden under blanket bogland. The boglands of Inishowen contain similar sites even though on a smaller scale.**

main threat here being coastal erosion. Over-grazing is a potential threat which seems to be under control for the moment.

A visitor to Inishowen will notice the scale of afforestation taking place. Fortunately, this type of development provides valuable protection for some of our ancient sites and monuments. Very clear guidelines are given to farmers and developers by the Department of Agriculture on how to identify places of archaeological interest. In order to process an application, the Department requires Ordnance Survey maps which have significant sites marked out. In some planted areas



*Carn Cross before being placed under cover*

Stone Monuments And

# The Celtic Tiger

SEAN BEATTIE

Land reclamation involves the removal of from three to four feet of bog, eventually clearing bog walls and destroying the last vestiges of our earliest farmers. Stones preserved for centuries by bog land have a remarkable white freshness about them. Removed stones end up in all kinds of places ranging from house foundations to landfill, to new enclosures around the reclaimed fields.

At one site visited, I found dozens of small stones that may have been used as scrapers by primitive peoples. A four-foot stone lying horizontally was probably a standing stone that became buried in the bog. One stone had the appearance of a polished stone axe-head. The site in question has been recorded and mapped by archaeologists. However, it is likely that there are several similar sites that remain uncovered and undetected.

The sand dunes of the peninsula are now under threat from the development of car parks, indiscriminate car parking, and the development of caravan sites and football pitches. Some protection measures have been implemented. At Culdaff, a new initiative involving the local development committee and the University of Ulster is underway. The dunes at Lagg, often regarded as the best of their kind in Europe, are quite well preserved, the

visited, sites such as fulachta fiadh have been enclosed by wire by the owner of the site.

The eclipse of the sun in August 1999 caught the attention of millions of people world-wide. It was a reminder too that our stone circles have connections with the sun. Bocan and the Beltany stone circles are well known in Donegal and evidence suggests that they may have been used as observatories. The number of upright stones at Bocan has decreased over the years but a few impressive ones are still standing. On a recent visit to the stone circle I noticed a crack at the base of one of the largest stones extending along the full length of the base. Unless this upright stone is supported, it may collapse completely, and another element of our ancient heritage will crumble.

The Office of Public Works has continued its work of promoting the conservation of important monuments, and this can be witnessed in Inishowen. In Carndonagh, for example, the famous Donagh Cross has been placed under cover and the site is an attractive place for visitors.

As we enter the new millennium, there are over 300 recorded sites of major archaeological interest in the Inishowen peninsula. How many of these will survive into the next millennium?



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