



# REVIEW

The Magazine of the Foyle Civic Trust

Issue 2

Spring 1991



Port Hall, Co. Donegal

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## FOREWORD

Some time ago we saw much participation of young citizens and not so young citizens in planting trees throughout the region. Trees give great pleasure in the landscape. Parkland creates delightful foil in urban surroundings, woodland delights the eye in the countryside. Clumps of trees, or individual trees can provide shelter and visual screens. Trees have the effect of softening the impact of built environment on the landscape. Over the last two decades there has been much new development on the outskirts of our towns and villages. Much of this new development is housing and much of it private schemes. These schemes make little provision for screen planting. Building plots are becoming progressively smaller, with little space for the planting of larger trees, particularly of the indigenous variety.

Planning authorities should insist, in each scheme approved, that a proportion of the development should be set aside for screen planting. This planting, should be carried out by the developer, but should then be taken over by the appropriate authority to ensure proper maintenance. The Department of the Environment is to be congratulated on the recent roadside planting carried out by its landscape division. It is hoped, that there will be much more of this, not only in and around towns, but in rural areas too.

This news sheet is The Foyle Civic Trust's second issue. It is intended that there will be two issues each year. The production depends very much on the generous sponsors and we are most grateful to those who have generously helped us this year.



Bishop Mehaffey and Bishop Daly pictured at a tree planting ceremony, organised by The Foyle Civic Trust in conjunction with Derry City Council. Included from left, Mr Joe Cowan, D.O.E., Dr Victor Eakin, D.C.C., Bishop Mehaffey, Mr Joe Tracey F.C.T., Bishop Daly and Mayor David Davis.

*Photograph courtesy of Derry Journal*

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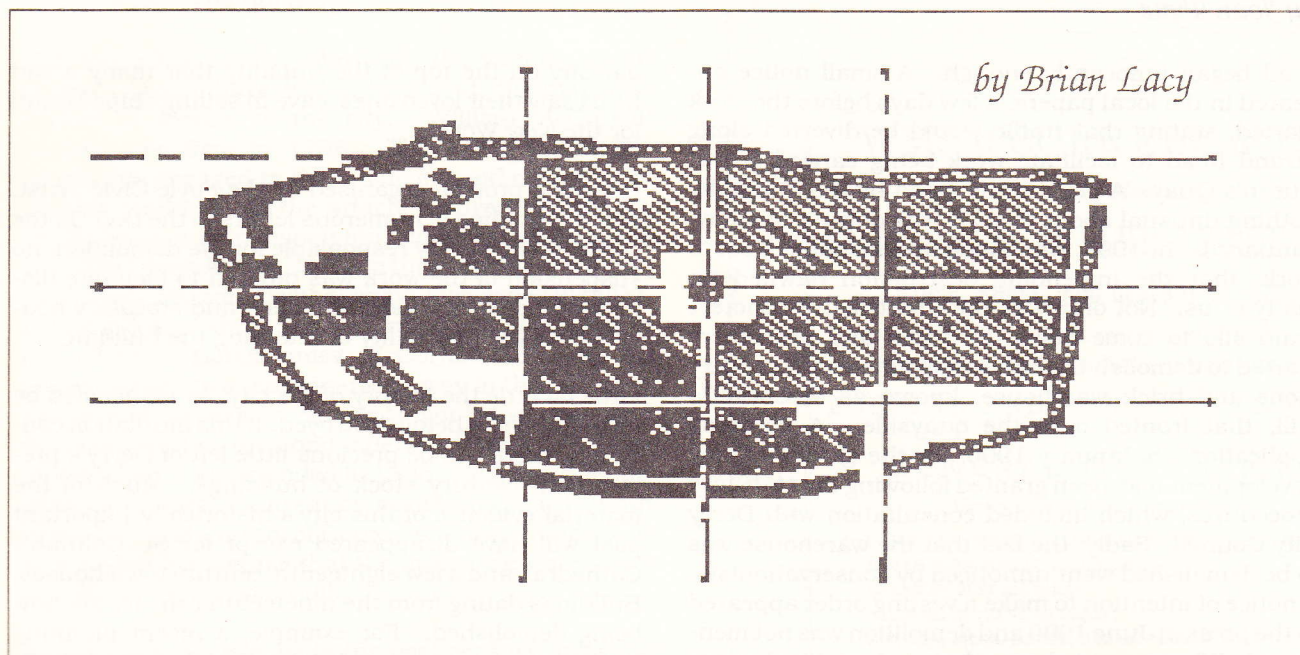
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## SERMONS IN STONES



Last Autumn an important exhibition, "If Stones Could Speak", was shown at the Orchard Gallery. The exhibition was the work of third year architectural students from Queen's University Belfast, and their tutor Desmond Fitzgerald. Subtitled "Urban analysis and design projects for the city of Derry" the exhibition was made up of architectural drawings, photographs and models. It was divided into four separate topics; two of which dealt with the origins of the plan of the city, while the other sections surveyed the city's existing architecture and the ideas of the students for possible new developments.

An important aim of the exhibition was to draw attention to one of the most interesting physical, and arguably one of the most philosophical aspects of the city (more accurately in this context the city of Londonderry), for it attempted to trace the origins of the distinctive grid pattern plan of the walled plantation town.

The evolution of this type of town-plan, from the *Castra* of the Roman Empire to the *Bastide* garrison towns of medieval Europe, was outlined and some comparisons and suggestions for the origin of the layout of Derry were made. Although one could argue with some of the ideas in the exhibition (eg. others, including myself, have drawn attention to the possibility of a connection between the plan of Derry and that of the French Renaissance city of Vitry-le-Francois), the exhibition highlighted the significantly European and international inheritance in the street layout of the walled city.

The concept of the ideally planned city - the theory that the perfect urban setting for the diversity of human living could be created - has haunted human imagina-

tion for a long time. Londonderry was the first planned city in Ireland. It stands at the very beginning of the history of town-planning in this country. However, in the historical context in which it was built, Londonderry was conceived to be as much a fortress as a rationally planned city (although one contemporary envisioned it optimistically as "a new Troy").

Derry is, of course, more than the walled city. The exhibition pointed out that "everyone knows that the city of Derry is, or more accurately was, beautiful". It also drew attention to the city's superb setting "on hills by a wide river, thus giving stupendous natural advantage in terms of things like views and light". The students made suggestions as to how these natural "advantages" could be exploited for the benefit of the people who live and work here instead of being ignored and misused.

The exhibition recognised in the words of one reviewer that "Derry is a small city, not a large village". While this may be true in terms of its planning and architecture it is not always reflected (with good and bad implications) in terms of its social organisation.

IF STONES COULD SPEAK was an exhibition of ideas: planning and architectural ideas; historical and philosophical ideas; European and civic ideas. At this crucial stage in the physical history of Derry, ideas are among the resources most badly needed.

For those who missed the exhibition, a beautifully designed catalogue is available from the Orchard Gallery (£10), and a stimulating review by David Brett was published in the November/December issue of Circa Art Magazine.

## THE McCORKELL MILL

by Joan Pyne

It all began innocently enough. A small notice appeared in the local papers, a few days before the work started, stating that traffic would be diverted along Strand Road to facilitate work being carried out at Queen's Quay. A large crane stood by the quayside, nothing unusual about that. It was only on Monday, January 14th, 1991, when men and machinery set to work, that the impending destruction dawned on many of us. Not only was the unattractive concrete grain silo to come down, but men and machinery started to demolish the handsome nineteenth century stone and brick warehouse, known as McCorkell's Mill, that fronted onto the quayside. A planning application, in January 1990, for the Queen's Quay development had been granted following the statutory procedures, which included consultation with Derry City Council. Sadly, the fact that the warehouse was to be demolished went unnoticed by conservationists. A notice of intention to make a vesting order appeared in the press in June 1990 and demolition was not mentioned. What a great shame that such major changes in the fabric of the city are not spelt out more clearly in these statutory notices! Unfortunately, this building had not been listed, and this made its destruction all the easier to accomplish.

McCorkell's warehouse was one of only two great warehouses on the river front which had survived since the nineteenth century. In the 1860s "Messrs. McCorkell provided a balcony at their premises to enable friends and relatives of the passengers to see the final departure..." (Sholto Cooke, *The Maiden City & The Western Ocean*, pp. 119-120). It was from the

balcony on the top of the building that many a sad heart saw their loved ones leave in sailing ships bound for the New World.

Despite a protest, organised by the Foyle Civic Trust, and the sending of numerous letters to the D.O.E., the government agency responsible for the demolition, no suspension of the work was ordered to facilitate discussion between conservationists and statutory bodies about the possibility of retaining the building.

Little by little the history of the city, as manifested by its buildings, is being destroyed. If this mutilation continues, there will be precious little left of Derry's pre-twentieth century stock of buildings. Much of the material evidence of this city's historically-important past will have disappeared except for St. Columba's Cathedral, and a few eighteenth-century town houses. Buildings dating from the nineteenth century are now being demolished. For example, a recent planning application has proposed the removal of the few remaining nineteenth-century houses in Sackville Street as part of the William Street redevelopment project. The Coppin building, in the Strand Road, is also under threat, while attempts are currently being made to have the old workhouse in the Waterside listed in order to prevent its destruction. For too long this city turned its back on the river and when, in the recent past, we had a chance to reverse this, we forfeited the opportunity by allowing the building of motorways and car-parks along the Foyle. Think of the glorious view the cars in the proposed car park on the site of the McCorkell building will have! Other cities, such as



Photograph taken in 1925

Liverpool, London, Dublin and now Belfast, have discovered that it is profitable, practical, and visually pleasing to natives and tourists alike to restore and conserve riverside buildings.

The McCorkell family, who built the warehouse on Queen's Quay, have had a long and distinguished history of service to the city. William McCorkell founded the firm in 1798. They were prominent merchants engaged in the importing and exporting of various products, as the attached advertisement for 1862 shows, and in dispatching emigrant ships to the U.S. The Derry Journal became the property of William McCorkell. His son, Bartholomew, succeeded in building up a fleet of ships and was known on both sides of the Atlantic. Bartholomew McCorkell (1807-85) involved himself in a most energetic way in the business and civic life of the city. He was Mayor three times, and first President of the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce when it was founded in 1885. He was a director of several railways and sat on numerous boards, both in the City and County of Derry, as well as Donegal. It was during his lifetime that the quay-side warehouse (see illustrations) was built.

A major relic of civic life in the past century has gone for ever with the demolition of this building. This is a great shame and could have been avoided as the successful conversion of the Rock Mill for student housing has shown. We must all share the responsibility for the continuing destruction of this noble and dignified city's past. If a greater awareness of the value of our remaining historic buildings arises out of this sad legacy of neglect and shortsightedness, then all may not be lost.

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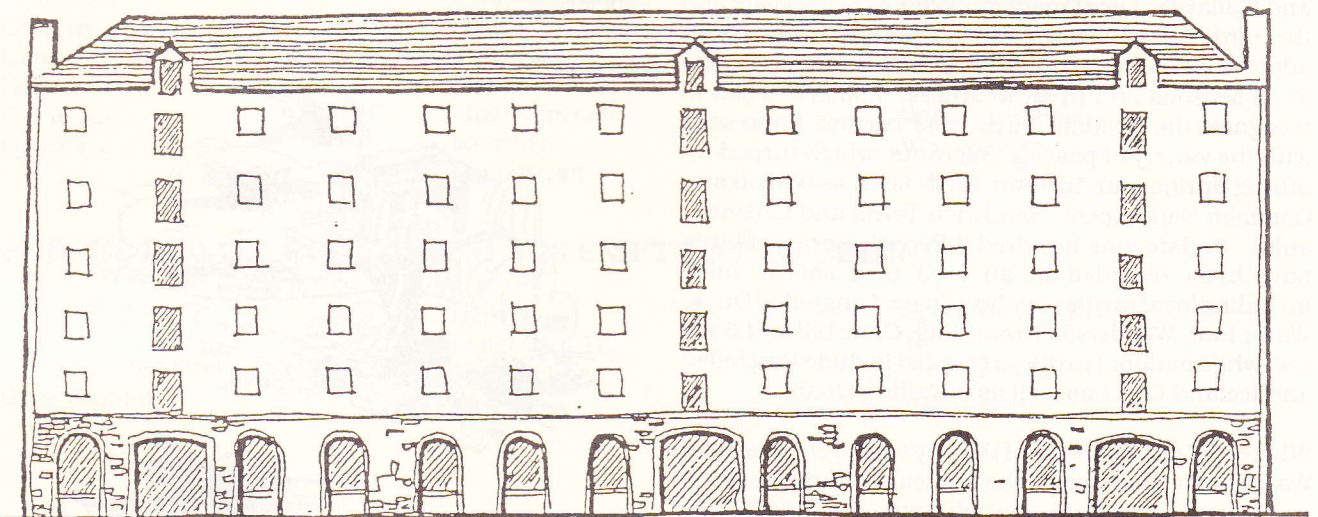
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 RIVER FRONT. JST

## GRANSHA LAKE AND ITS ENVIRONMENTS - AN EDUCATIONAL ASSET?

by Theo Campbell

Gransha Lake, which is an area of fresh water, near Londonderry, is separated from the River Foyle by a railway embankment. The lake is roughly crescent in shape and apart from the railway embankment, it is bordered by a private housing estate, open fields and the approach road to the Foyle Bridge from which it is mainly screened by a plantation of conifers. There is one main feeder stream and a ditch, parallel to the railway line, drains off excess water. There is an extensive band of phragmites reeds along the side of the railway embankment allowing suitable nesting habitat for waterfowl. Small birds are accommodated by a number of mature deciduous trees, whin bushes, bracken and other vegetation. These, and the plantation of conifers, give Gransha lake a wealth of habitat which ensures a diverse range of species within an urban area.

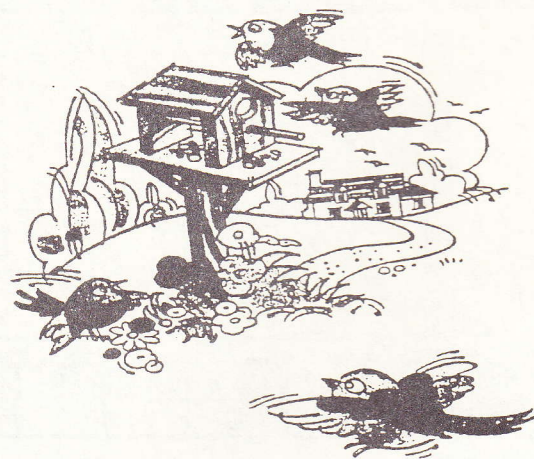
I was introduced to the bird life of the area by a friend in the 1970s. Access then involved walking down the Londonderry/Coleraine railway line which was not to be recommended. I seem to remember the lake then as being larger and the conifers extending right into the grounds of Gransha hospital. To my impressionable mind, it seemed a magical place, full of strange, enchanting birdsong and calls, as well as my first sightings of Reed Buntings, Teal, Mallards and Moorhens. I kept records of my visits to "the swamp" as it was nicknamed but these early notes are long since lost. In the 1980s, I renewed my acquaintance with the area.

Due to the building of the access road for the Foyle Bridge, I discovered that a considerable number of conifers had been felled in order to put in manhole covers, resulting in the drying up of a marshy area near the lake where before one could have seen Moorhens and Mallards. I kept meticulous notes of my visits and the birds I had seen. Gransha lake had now been adopted as my "local patch" and I made frequent visits at all seasons and in all weathers. I soon learned to recognise the resident birds, and became impressed with the variety of passage migrants, which turned up during Spring and Autumn, birds such as Wheatears, Common Sandpipers, Sandwich Terns and Greenshanks. To date, one hundred different species of birds have been recorded in an area of a square mile, including local rarities such as Twite, Longtailed Duck, Water Rail, Woodcock, Brambling, Crossbill and Barn Owl while national rarities recorded include Ringbilled and Iceland Gulls as well as a Calling Quail.

Where else within a mile of the city centre can one hear Water Rails "sharming", the "squeaky" hunger calls of young long-eared Owls, the "whinnying" of little Grebes and the "quacking" of wild Mallard, not to mention the chance of seeing a fox or hedgehog or the aerial evening evolutions of flocks of Swallows or Pied Wagtails in autumn that roost in the reed beds.

Unfortunately Gransha Lake in common with many good areas for wildlife is under threat from pollution or "development". During May 1988, used heating oil got into the lake causing a serious pollution risk. Most of the waterfowl were nesting in the reed beds, and it was a combination of good luck and favourable wind direction as well as prompt action by the Department of the Environment Water Service, which confined the oil to one area of the lake away from most of the reed beds. Alas, two waterbirds did die, but a major catastrophe to the breeding Ducks, Coots, Swans and Grebes was narrowly averted. Another problem arises from a few careless fishermen, who leave discarded fishing line by the shore, which can be hazard to birds such as Coot and Moorhens. There is also the threat of more houses being erected or other developments changing the character of the Lake.

So what of the future of Gransha lake, its environment and wildlife? I strongly believe, that in Gransha lake, we have an important amenity, not only for its diverse wildlife but just as importantly, it offers as an educational asset, especially for the schools of the Londonderry Area. Gransha lake because of its location allows easy access to school groups from the west and east bank of the city. It is compact enough to allow an indepth study of the area without the need for long walks or the expense of long periods of time. Due to the range of habitat available, there is always plenty to see and study, no matter what the season. The proximity of Gransha lake enables people to observe birds close to the city, birds such as Herons, Grebes and other waterfowl. Here on our doorstep is an area, not only of scenic beauty and a haven for bird life, but possessing the potential for an invaluable resource, that of environmental education in our more ecologically aware society.



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## A LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED WITHIN 1 SQUARE MILE OF GRANSHA LAKE

Bar Tailed Godwit  
Barn Owl  
Blackcap  
Blackbird  
Blackheaded Gull  
Blue Tit  
Brambling  
Bullfinch  
Chaffinch  
Chiffchaff  
Coal Tit  
Collared Dove  
Common Gull  
Common Sandpiper  
Common Tern  
Coot  
Cormorant  
Crossbill  
Curlew  
Dunlin  
Dunnock  
Fieldfare  
Glavcous Gull  
Goldcrest  
Goldeneye  
Goldfinch  
Great Blackbacked Gull  
Great Crested Grebe  
Great Northern Diver  
Great Tit  
Greenfinch  
Greenshank  
Grey Crow

Grey Wagtail  
Greylag Goose  
Heron  
Herring Gull  
House Martin  
House Sparrow  
Iceland Gull  
Jackdaw  
Kestrel  
Kingfisher  
Kittiwake  
Lapwing  
Linnet  
Little Grebe  
Longeared Owl  
Longtailed Duck  
Longtailed Tit  
Magpie  
Mallard  
Meadow Pipit  
Mistle Thrush  
Moorehen  
Mute Swan  
Oyster Catcher  
Peregrine  
Pied Wagtail  
Pheasant  
Pochard  
Quail  
Red Breasted Mersanger  
Redpoll  
Redshank  
Redwing

Reed Bunting  
Ringbilled Gull  
Robin  
Rock Pipit  
Rook  
Sand Martin  
Sandwich Tern  
Sedge Warbler  
Shelduck  
Shoveler  
Siskin  
Skylark  
Snipe  
Song Thrush  
Sparrow Hawk  
Spotted Flycatcher  
Starling  
Stock Dove  
Swallow  
Swift  
Teal  
Tree Creeper  
Tufted Duck  
Twite  
Water Rail  
Wheatear  
Whimbrel  
White Throat  
Whooper Swan  
Wigeon  
Willow Warbler  
Woodcock  
Wood Pigeon  
Wren

## REGULAR BREEDING BIRDS OF GRANSHA LAKE

Blackbird  
Blue Tit  
Chaffinch  
Chiffchaff  
Coal Tit  
Coot  
Dunnock  
Goldcrest  
Great Tit

Grey Crow  
Little Grebe  
Linnet  
Longeared Owl  
Magpie  
Mallard  
Meadow Pipit  
Mistle Thrush  
Moorhen  
Mute Swan

Pied Wingtail  
Reed Bunting  
Robin  
Sedge Warbler  
Song Thrush  
Sparrow Hawk  
Tufted Duck  
Willow Warbler  
Woodpigeon  
Wren

## SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED ATTEMPTS AT BREEDING

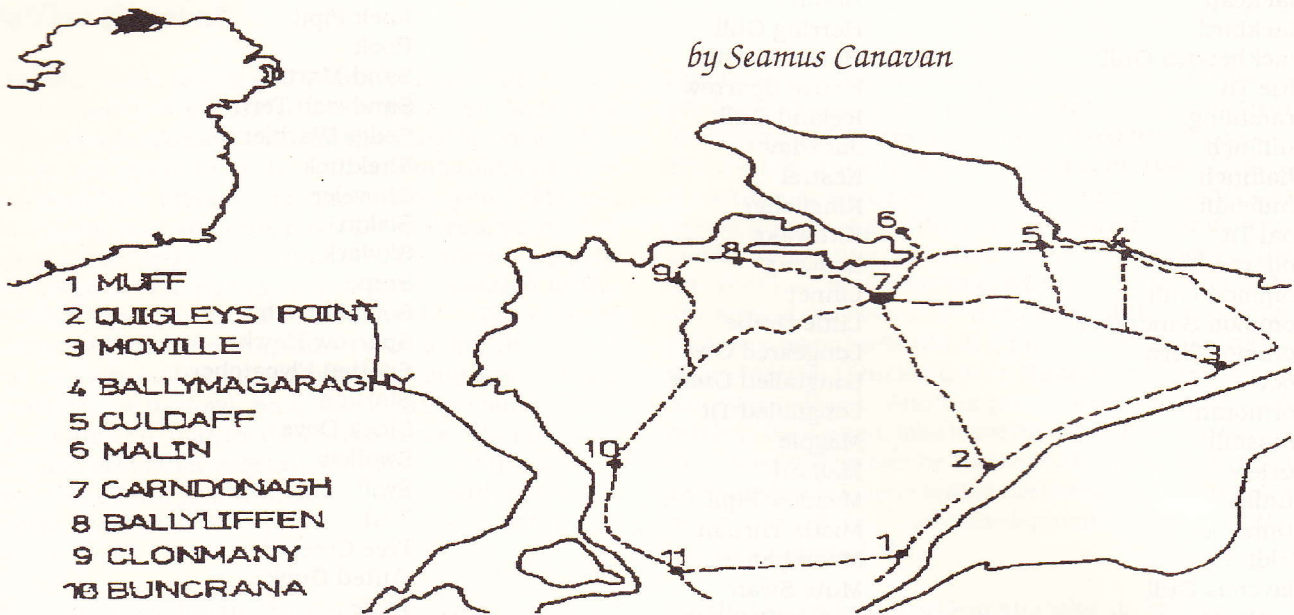
Collared Dove  
Crossbill  
Great Crested Grebe  
Grey Wagtail

Heron  
Longtailed Tit  
Shelduck  
Skylark

Spotted Flycatcher  
Teal  
Tree Creeper  
Water Rail

# THE CLACHAN AT BALLYMAGARAGHY, INISHOWEN, CO. DONEGAL

*by Seamus Canavan*



## CLACHAN:- A DEFINITION

A clachan is a traditional form of Irish rural settlement. Randomly clustered with no discernable street pattern, it would consist of stone-walled or mud cabins (cottages) and associated farm buildings. Absent from the clachan would be buildings of service and civic functions such as shops and churches.

The function of the clachan was based on the farming methods of the surrounding land. This farming method was the "Rundale" system. This related to community farming with a double enclosure of "infield" and "outfield". The "infield" adjacent to the clachan would be used for tillage with the "outfield" used for livestock grazing. The Rundale system has however resulted in continuous sub-division by the clachan inhabitants with multiple ownership of small patches of ground. The once communal and unfenced outfield has in general become sub-divided into a pattern of narrow strips.

Throughout Ulster and Ireland clachans have diminished to become almost extinct and unrecognisable. This has been a result of general agricultural improvements including mechanisation, specialisation and consolidation, farm enlargements and of rural phenomena such as population decline and migration; dispersed farmhouses, decline in numbers engaged in agriculture, concentration of modern services and facilities in larger towns and urban centres. These trends have also resulted in a less communal approach to agriculture. A clachan is thus effectively a relic of the past.

Clachans represented a vestige of an ancient social organisation. However, they are of much more signifi-

cance in cultural and social terms. They can also indicate a harmony of man with his landscape which can teach much to those involved in the physical, social and economic planning of the countryside; and for those designing modern buildings and settlements in it.

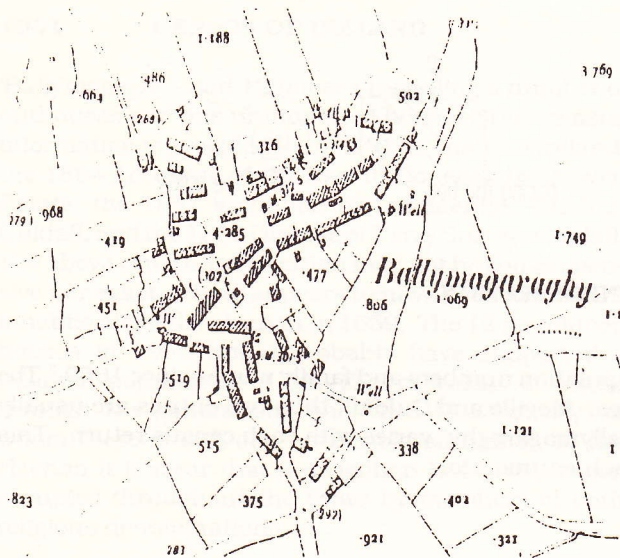
## THE CLACHAN AT BALLYMAGARAGHY

These assertions can be illustrated with reference to the clachan at Ballymagaraghy. Ballymagaraghy is located in the Inishowen peninsula mid-way between Culdaff village and Inishowen Head. It lies on the Inishowen 100 tourist route connecting Kinnagoe Bay with Tremore Bay. Inishowen, which is the peripheral north-east portion of Co Donegal, is the most northerly peninsula in Ireland. The clachan is only some 400 metres from a cliff face. Situated on the side of an exposed hill, it commands excellent north-west views over the Atlantic and the surrounding countryside.

There are no other buildings or dwellings within 600 meters of Ballymagaraghy. The present cluster of cottages and buildings is almost invisible from many surrounding vantage points. This illustrates how the clachan was located to take shelter from prevailing winds. It could also be associated with defensive considerations.

The turn of the century Ordnance Survey maps show some fifty buildings clustered in Ballymagaraghy. Many of these would have been sub-divided. Today a lot of these buildings have disappeared or have collapsed into ruins. Many do remain however, creating instant visual recognition of the clachan structure.





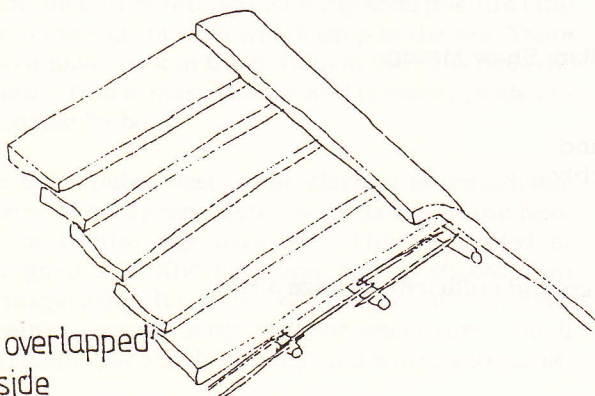
There are at present many thatched cottages and outbuildings in the clachan. These are a rapidly disappearing feature of the Irish countryside. For example, the 1990 Inishowen Heritage Survey carried out by Ms Fidelma Mullane revealed that there are now 196 thatched cottages (of which only one quarter are occupied) still remaining in the peninsula. Although Inishowen would appear to have the highest remaining relative densities of thatched houses in Ireland, this heritage legacy is fast disappearing. Several thatched roofs have been replaced with slate or tin, or actually demolished, in Ballymagaraghy in the past several years.

### DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

These aspects and other detailed information were researched and documented by Mr Peter Tracey in his study of the clachan.

The design and layout of these buildings, whilst at first glance appearing ad hoc, uses much simple ingenuity. Doors and houses were positioned for maximum shelter with evidence of doors set opposite each other as a wind control device. Buildings would be built on sloping ground contours so as to facilitate drainage of floors for washing and farm animal effluent.

The complexity of stone wall and roof construction is astonishing. The Irish thatched roof having been described as "the finest peasant roof in Europe."<sup>1</sup>



scraws overlapped  
on lee side

### AT ONE WITH THE LANDSCAPE

Local and natural materials were used for construction. Local stone for walls and flooring. Bog pine and fir for roof timbers. Bog scraws as roof undercover and flax for thatching.

The clachan is thus constructed using natural materials from the locality. The lay-out and form of the clachan buildings combine with their setting into natural topography to further complement the surroundings in which they are located. Accordingly, the clachan serves at once to create a human architecture at one with the landscape from which it sprung.

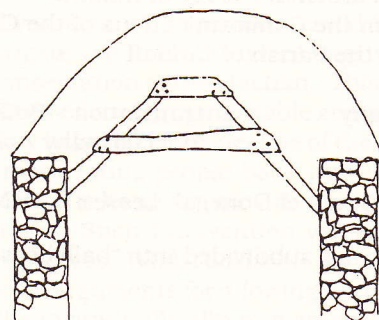
### DISAPPEARING CRAFTS AND SKILLS

The skills needed to construct these buildings whether wall masonry or roof thatching have all but disappeared from the rural scene. Many general rural features such as turf stacks, field walls, corn stacks and hay stacks are suffering a similar fate and may soon be relics of a former age. All of these features and the skills which produce them are still evident in Ballymagaraghy, although for how long is questionable.

### A SOCIAL COMMUNITY

Clachan inhabitants were a tight-knit community, all ages would be looked after and the old would orally educate the young in local traditions. Farming and other tasks would be carried out on a communal basis. The normal everyday tensions associated with living and working in such proximity appear to have been overshadowed by the communal bond. One person's labour or shared possessions such as a horse would be shared and reciprocated by others in due course. This arrangement was essential in the day-to-day existence of the clachan social structure. Based on the necessity arising from subsistence living and the absence of a developed cash economy. It has been traditionally known as the "meitheal" system in rural Ireland. In Ballymagaraghy it was referred to as "morrowing".

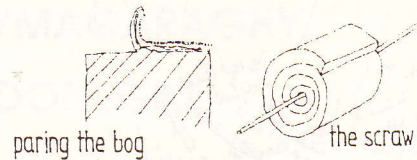
"Ceili'ing" would be another expression of the social togetherness of clachan communities. That is informal visits and gatherings in certain houses with entertainment including storytelling, singing and dancing. There was at least one such house in Ballymagaraghy



A Couple

which was well renowned in living memory for ceiling.<sup>2</sup>

Land has been sub-divided over the years with multiple and dispersed ownership. For example, in the clachan some 14 people lay claim to a small area of ground such that each claim two ridges (e.g. a potato ridge) per person.



## REVIEW OF A SELECTION OF HISTORICAL CENSUS INFORMATION

Early census information reveals approximate details of population numbers and family names since 1659.<sup>3</sup> The Ballymagaraghy clachan was divided between two parishes, Moville and Culdaff, thus two entries are usually made in the census data. Furthermore, the spelling of "Ballymagaraghy" varies with each census return. This would be due to the individual spelling of the name by each enumerator.

### 1659 Census of Ireland

Parish	Owner	Townland	(Total)	No of English People and	
				Scots	Irish
Moville	Arther Lorde Chichester,	"BalliMcgarke"	8	-	8
Culdaff	Lord Viscount Carrickfergus	"Bellimegarhee"	9	-	9

### 1740 List of Protestant Householders in the Parish of Moville

"Bellmagaraghy" James McLdawney  
George Hood

### 1782 List of Persons in the Parish of Culdaff March 8th 1782 Amy Young's "300 years in Inishowen"

### 1782 "Ballymagaraghy"

John McLldaney, wife and children  
Robert " "  
William " "

### 1802 or 1803 "Ballymagaraghy", Culdaff; List of Parishioners

John, Nancy and Elizabeth McLldaney (1)  
Patrick and Robert (14)  
Ibby (16)  
Ibby (widow) and John (17), Nancy (15) and Mary (12)

### 1816 Parochial Survey of Ireland

Drawn up from the Communications of the Clergy, William Shaw Mason  
Townlands in the Parish of Culdaff

Ballymagarraghy translation:- Baile - townland  
MacGarraghy - of McGerachty

Proprietor, Marquis of Donegal, Lessee H McNeil.

The townlands are subdivided into "ballyboes", i.e. the ground sufficient to graze a cow.

'Ballymagaghy' had 12 houses including a number of outhouses and one uninhabited house. Other census information is provided in the 1911 Census of Ireland, the 1864 Accounts of the Earl of Donegal, Inishowen Estate, the 1857 Valuation of Tenements, Parish of Culdaff, and the 1835 Diocese of Derry Survey, Culdaff. The above census information may not be comprehensive nor exact. There appears to have been at least 17 inhabitants in the clachan in 1659. The 12 mentioned houses in 1901 would probably have supported a minimal population of 50. The prevalent surname through the generations has been McEldowney, of whom there is still one household so named in the clachan. It is clear that the clachan has always been occupied throughout the years by members of both religious denominations.

There are presently some 16 persons in the Ballymagaraghy clachan. All are aged either below 15 or over 50 years of age. This is indicative of the general decline in rural areas such as this. The economically active leave to find employment opportunities elsewhere. The population structure becomes unbalanced leaving the older and younger inhabitants. The Designed Enumeration District (Turmone) which Ballymagaraghy is part of, has experienced a population decline from 1901 to 1981 of over 50%. This is one of the highest rates of decline in Inishowen. The population density of this area of less than 0.25 persons per hectare is similarly relatively low.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL

The 1983 Archaeological Survey of County Donegal has two entries relating to Ballymagaraghy. They relate to standing stones and a stone cairn. The entries read as follows:

##### Survey Reference 350

Two standing stones aligned NE-SW and partially surrounded by a stone cairn. The S stone stands 1.3 m high above the top of the cairn and is 82m wide; the N stone stands 8 m high above the top of the cairn and has a maximum width of 1.11 m. The cairn is 3 m long x 2.7 m wide x 7 m high. Situated on open boggy mountain terrain.

##### Survey Reference 351

A standing stone 1.15m high x 55 m maximum width x 35 m thick; N-S situated on fairly level pasture land close to the edge of cliffs which drop to the sea. There is also a mass rock at the bottom of the cliffs near the clachan. This is inaccessible and is more readily approachable by boat.

Some three miles west of the clachan is remarkable evidence of an ancient settlement dating to the Neolithic or Bronze Age periods.<sup>4</sup> This is located at Kindroghed and Knockergana and is visible from Ballymagaraghy. It consists of 'stretches of wall, 'field' enclosures, cairns, large circular enclosures, small sub-rectangular or sub-circular enclosures and stand-

ing stones." These have been largely covered by the growth of the blanket bog although some are now visible with turf extraction.

#### COMMENT

This short article will have implanted in the readers' mind a sense of a bye-gone age which has almost disappeared throughout rural Ulster. Whilst there are many remains and vestiges of clachan settlements still scattered throughout various counties, Ballymagaraghy commands special consideration.

The clachan at Ballymagaraghy is both visually discernable and striking. Moreover it is still inhabited and remains a living link with the past social history and heritage which has shaped the rural landscape. The architectural skills, building crafts, the social unity and communal farming patterns all serve to produce a distinct cultural identity. The clachan buildings and layout are physical expressions of a past culture, the clachan and its landscape being "a culturally defined form."<sup>5</sup>

Located in an isolated area of outstanding natural beauty the clachan at Ballymagaraghy serves to complement and enhance its landscape and environs unlike most present day buildings in the countryside.

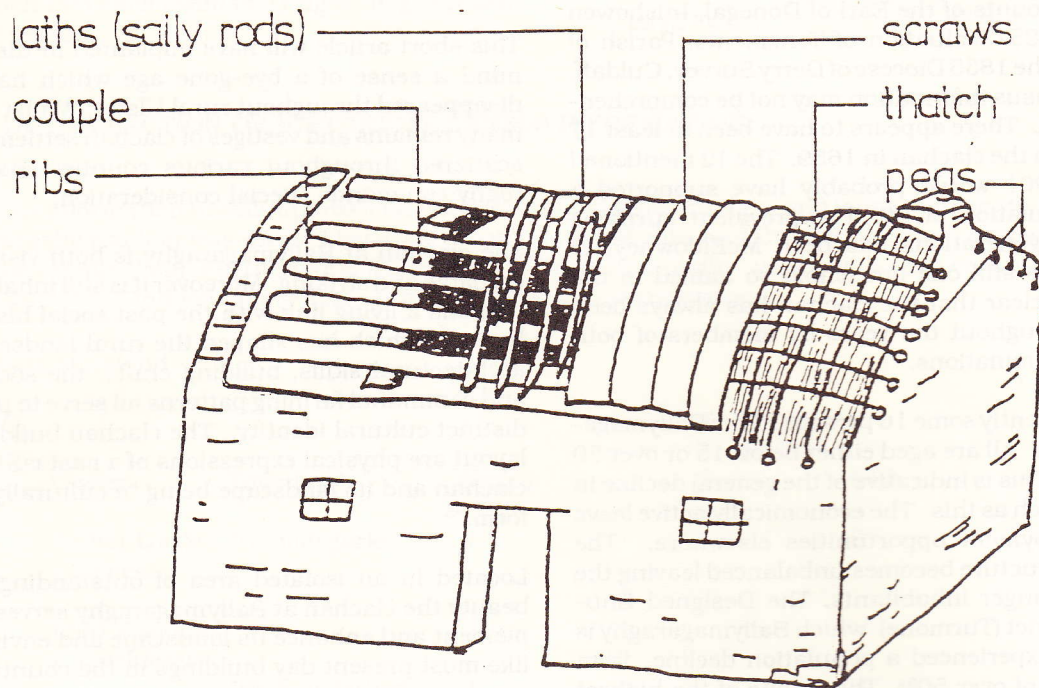
Tourists, who visit Ireland, do so for three main reasons: scenery and natural environment, culture and friendly people.<sup>6</sup> These are what the Ballymagaraghy clachan encapsulates, i.e. our living heritage. Tourists can realise this value of the country much more so from without, than our present society can from within.

#### AWARENESS MAKING

The value of this national heritage should be more widely publicised and could be offered more statutory protection.

To this end, the Foyle Civic Trust organised with local assistance, an illustrated talk by several speakers on the Ballymagaraghy clachan. This took place in the local schoolhouse during February 1991. Over 90 people, almost all from the locality, turned out. This was an incredible attendance for the area. Both young and old attended and a highly informative and enjoyable talk with discussion afterwards took place. All present were imparted with the uniqueness and value of the clachan and the way of life associated with it.

Hopefully, a steering committee could be established to investigate ways and means of engendering appropriate conservation of the clachan. This could explore possibilities of encouraging viable economic activities which may help arrest the decline of the area, and help attract more young people back into it. This would however have to be approved with the local inhabitants at all stages. Such intervention would have to be a sensitive process. Whilst desirable and laudable, there may also be arguments for allowing the clachan and its way of life to gradually slip into graceful decline.



Roof of a cottage'

#### NOTES

1. As stated in "Architecture as Colonialism" Architects Journal 30 June 1982 pp 37-40.
2. This house belonged to Fanny A. McEldowney
3. Information gratefully provided by Mr Annesley Malley.
4. Information gratefully supplied by Mr Brian Lacy.
5. "Traditional buildings in the landscape: conservation and preservation" A. Gailey. Conference: The Future of the Irish Rural Landscape. Irish Planning Institute/Trinity College, Department of Geography, 19 March 1985 pp 26-45
6. Government "White Paper on Tourism" Dublin, 1985

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Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning, June 1983.

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Illustrations provided from the study by Mr P J Tracey.

# URBAN REGENERATION & CONSERVATION

by Andrew Meenagh

## Historic town centres

The problem of unsympathetic development, particularly in historic town centres, such as Londonderry, and persistent erosion of the detailed fabric of historic buildings, leading to a progressive reduction in the character of our urban heritage, need addressing. The intrusion of bulky retail developments and car parks continues to destroy scale and old street patterns. Poor traffic control, the insensitive use of shop signs, which disfigure retained historical frontages, and the widespread, and apparently condoned, loss of historic interiors behind retained façades, debase the quality not only of single buildings, but of whole historic areas.

The key to improvement must lie in the weight which local authorities can give to conservation, both in the planning process and the resources- of man power and cash- which they can deploy for conservation work. This is a question not only of overall resource constraints, but also of the government's priorities between conservation and development and the clear messages sent to local authorities by nationally decided test cases. The effect on conservation work of government policies on planning and control of local authority capital and revenue spending are all relevant. Separate accounting for resources devoted to conservation at local level could, for instance, highlight the capacity and preparedness of local authorities to devote resources to this work. Ideally there should be at least one conservation officer at an appropriate level in all local authority areas and an improved programme for training such officers.

## Listed Buildings

A significant threat to historic buildings is represented by the unwitting spoiling of the general run of vernacular listed buildings and conservation areas by piecemeal repair and alteration in the wrong materials and styles- for example, by the use of PVC rather than traditional wooden windows, or of new hardwood doors in a variety of 'off-the-peg' architectural styles. A more robust and committed attitude by some local authorities to their responsibilities and by the DOE to the use of Article 4 directions would help, but there is need for much wider understanding among homeowners, builders, and suppliers of the contribution which these buildings make to the quality of the environment and the right approach to their repair. An educational programme, which could reach the individual builder and the home owner would need substantial resources. It could be freestanding or part of a larger initiative, including matters of interest to the Civic Trust and other interested bodies, which would seek to bring aspects of good design, local and personal pride, and an improved environment more closely with conservation issues.

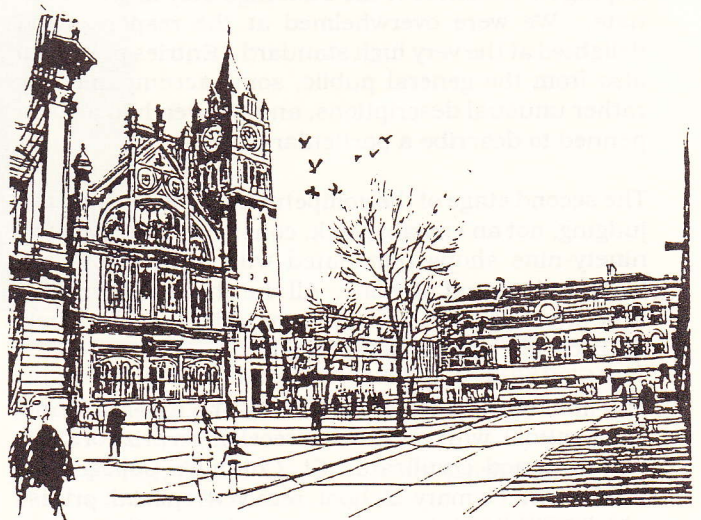
## VAT on Listed Building Repairs

Consideration should be given to the possibility of modest tax incentives to encourage individuals and businesses to care for the historic environment. In particular, a VAT concession for the maintenance and repair of listed buildings would be invaluable. Current arrangements, whereby VAT is not levied on alterations, provide a disincentive to repairs, and this works to the detriment of conservation.

The tax incentive would encourage owners to undertake preventative maintenance and thus reduce the overall size and eventual cost of capital repairs. Other measures to help owners (e.g. extended tax relief on maintenance funds) would undoubtedly help the conservation of large houses, but the VAT would have the widest beneficial impact.

## Fiscal and Economic Policies

There has always to be a balance between development and conservation to satisfy the economic and social needs of the community. Nonetheless, the present system of economic evaluation is not designed to represent what we regard as the true value of the total threatened environment in certain projects. We are keen to find a better mechanism for agreeing a financial value for the environment to set in the balance of financial considerations surrounding major works schemes.



Guildhall Square : Traffic access confined to service and public transport vehicles.

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# THE SHOP FRONT COMPETITION

by Mary McLaughlin

According to T.H. Mullin's book "Ulster's Historic City Derry/Londonderry", Mr. John Barrow in 1835 commented that there were some good shops in Derry, one of which, kept by a fashionable milliner, would not have disgraced Regent Street. Would this statement hold true today?

Were you counted among the discerning public who entered our Shop Front Competition and since then have you continued to cast a critical eye over the buildings in the city? If you can answer in the affirmative to these questions, the Foyle Civic Trust succeeded in getting their message across. OBSERVE AND ABSORB YOUR SENSE OF PLACE.

The Shop Front Competition which was sponsored by the Development Office created quite a buzz in the town. During preliminary discussions on the project, under the direction of Mr Seamus Roddy, it was decided that we must sustain our high standards of presentation, and maintain our credibility as a driving force in the community. Thus, with enthusiasm and a lot of hard work, we embarked on the first stage of what proved to be a very popular and successful project.

The competition was launched by the Mayor, Councillor David Davis in the Guildhall on August 30 1990, and a broad section of the business and civic community attended. In his speech the Mayor commended the work of the Trust since its inauguration, and remarked that the competition would be a very worthwhile exercise, in keeping with the current regeneration programme being carried out by the Development Office. We were on our way! We had decided to approach the Art Departments of the senior schools in the city, primarily an awareness exercise but also hoping for sketches of the buildings they might nominate. We were overwhelmed at the response and delighted at the very high standard. Entries poured in also from the general public, some accompanied by rather unusual descriptions, and we even had a poem penned to describe a particular shop.

The second stage of the competition of course, was the judging, not an enviable task, considering that we had ninety-nine shops nominated with entries totalling two hundred and fifty one. All the shops entered had to be photographed. However, the judges reached their decision after much deliberation.

The final choices were, the Acorn, The Linenhall and The Sentinel, with each owner receiving a prize of £250 and a framed certificate. St. Columb's College and Steelstown Primary School received special prizes, which included a huge jigsaw puzzle.

The third stage was the long awaited presentation of prizes which took place in the Central Library, Foyle Street on Tuesday 18 December. Preparations for this

event were undertaken with meticulous precision. Nothing was left to chance. We had the Minister, Mr. Needham coming to present the prizes. Television cameras and reporters from the local press would be there in force.

An excellent exhibition mounted by the Foyle Civic Trust with much appreciated assistance from Mr. Jim Lavery and his team from the Graphics Department of the D.O.E. provided the setting for the big occasion, the piece de resistance being of course the Golden Teapot very kindly lent by Mr. Noel Faller, who worked extremely hard to get it ready for us. Mr Faller also compiled a potted history of the Teapot which the Trust printed and distributed at the reception. The Teapot provided the focal point of the exhibition, whilst other artifacts (on loan from antique dealers in the town) in the form of old shop signs and advertising material added a touch of authenticity to the proceedings. A collection of slides recording a window dressing competition held in the 1930s was shown continually throughout the exhibition together with photographs depicting a bygone era in the history of the city's commercial life.

When Mr. Needham completed his tour of the exhibition our Chairman welcomed the Minister and civic dignitaries, including the Mayor and Mr John Hume. He outlined the aims of the competition which were to encourage good design and promote greater awareness of the built environment. Mr. Needham replied praising the work done, then presented the awards and posed for some photographs. Needless to say he used the occasion to announce some new developments in the town, which added to the excitement.

Meanwhile, we must focus our attention on the next Shop Front promotion which will encompass the Foyle Basin catchment area taking in Strabane, Limavady, Inishowen and of course our own city. Hopefully, by then, we will have engendered enough interest to make the headlines exclusively. We want to promote our image across the province.

The local newspapers covered the event admirably and judging by the comments made at the prize-giving ceremony we succeeded in achieving a very ambitious goal. The exhibition continued in the Central Library for almost three weeks and then moved to the Waterside Library for a further three weeks. Since the competition, a few shops in the town have been renovated. These new designs are very encouraging, let's hope the planners and architects continue to promote more varied design concepts in the future.

And finally, if you're impressed with the work of the Foyle Civic Trust why not boost our resources by subscribing to our membership, thus ensuring that we continue with our efforts to promote public awareness.



We are indebted to the following people for the help and encouragement given during the project.

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| John Torney, D.O.E. ....    | Jim Laverty, D.O.E. |
| Manus Martin, ACE .....     | Noel Fallor         |
| Dick Sinclair .....         | David Bigger &      |
| W.E.L.B Library Staff ..... | Terence McDonald    |
| Joe Mulheron .....          | Gerry McCloskey     |
| Geoffrey Doherty .....      | Peter Tracey        |
| Patrick McGrogran .....     | Sister Aloysius     |
| Patrick Bradley .....       | Joe Blair           |
| David Mc Cartney .....      | Patricia Wilson.    |

## TREE POWER

*By Aidan Farren*

Ireland has remained a mainly undeveloped country compared to her most industrialised neighbours and the natural world, and natural things have always played an important part in the folk-lore of the Irish people. In earlier times when people were much more aware of their utter dependence upon the natural world around them for the necessities of life, than perhaps would be the case today, a power was given by humanity to some of the common, natural things which surrounded them.

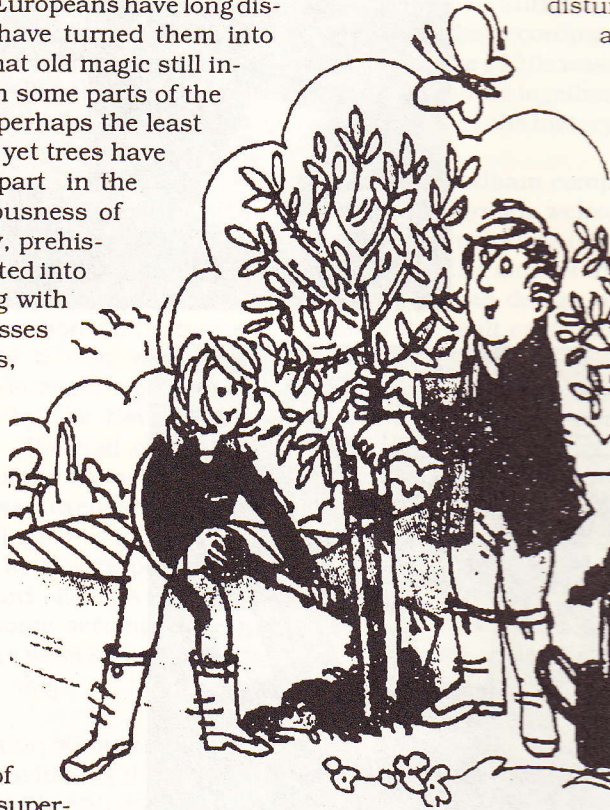
Certain rivers, mountains, stones and trees were seen as being sacred in their own right, as having a power contained within them, for good or evil which could be harnessed by human beings as an aid in their struggle to survive.

Even today, when most other Europeans have long discarded these old beliefs, or have turned them into tourist attractions, some of that old magic still invests certain natural things in some parts of the Irish countryside. Ireland is perhaps the least afforested country in Europe, yet trees have always played an important part in the general folk-lore and consciousness of her people. Much of the early, prehistoric belief has been incorporated into Irish Christian practice, along with certain pagan Gods and Goddesses who are now Christian Saints, but some remnants have survived and have remained on the outside to form an underflow of belief which has deeply influenced the way ordinary people have viewed the relationship between the natural and the supernatural worlds. There are cursing stones, fairy trees, etc., still to be found in nearly every county in Ireland.

Trees are the most common of the natural things imbued with supernatural power which still exist in modern Ireland. Here and there dotted through the Irish countryside there are gentle bushes, or fairy trees, which are normally left strictly unmolested by human beings. These trees, usually always hawthorns, do not seem to have any power for good, do not stand for anything necessary or worthwhile in the community; instead their power is completely negative and malevolent. They cannot be harnessed or used for good, but contain, in popular superstition, a terrible power to bring harm, bad luck, or wreak havoc on anyone foolish enough to damage or interfere with them in any way.

I know of several of these trees in the area where I grew up in Ballyhargan, Dungiven and as far as I can ascertain they are still there, even in the middle of fields, a reminder of their reputation for dangerous potency. They have even been able to resist, to a certain extent, the march of progress. In the past twenty years or so there has been a complete revolution in Irish agriculture with the advent of much more modern methods. We have now a scientific, highly mechanised industry in the place of the farming practices of former times. Great changes have taken place and even the physical landscape of the countryside has been altered. Many of the traditional ditches and hedges have been completely removed to make field sizes larger and sometimes important historical remains (i.e. raths, cairns, ancient burial sites, etc) have disappeared in this modern development. Only occasionally will local farmers disturb a fairy tree, or 'gentle bush' as they are sometimes called,

even when the trees are causing an obstruction to the modern methods of farming.



The old beliefs and fears remain under the surface. In the past, the trees had such a reputation for malevolence, if disturbed, that people left them strictly alone. It was considered that it was highly dangerous to damage or interfere in any way with these trees and stories abound of the harm which befell those who ignored the warnings. Farm animals would become ill or die or sometimes the people themselves would be victim. Families would have such a run of bad luck that it was thought that only supernatural forces could be the cause. In most cases

it was believed that the fairies owned the trees and were venting their anger on those who would damage their property therefore the vast majority of the community would usually give these trees a wide berth.

Even today people will say that they do not believe all that old nonsense but very few of them will interfere with a fairy tree, should they be aware that it is one. Usually what they will say is, that they will not break the habits of the countryside and will leave such bushes strictly alone. It is this reluctance to change, or abandon completely old traditions which keeps the past alive in Ireland.



## YOU DON'T NEED TO GO TO THE AMAZON....

by Éamann Ó hArtghaile.  
*Conservation Volunteers*

The discussion topics raised in conversation today generally come around to the question of the environment, and the need to protect and preserve our countryside and ultimately the planet Earth. How often do we hear people say that they would love to stop the damage being done to the planet but "sure it's all so far away". The destruction of the rain forests, swamp lands and oceans by man is a regular topic on television or radio with appeals being made for donations to fund groups working out in far-off countries. That's all very fine and important but if like me, you would like to participate in physically doing something to protect the environment, where do you turn...? "Conservation Volunteers".

Conservation Volunteers offer you a unique opportunity to join others who are dedicated to protecting our local environment. "Thinking Globally - acting Locally". All over the country trees are planted, nature gardens created, footpaths cleared and dry stone walls rebuilt. We have recently opened an office at the Foyle Arts Centre and are looking for volunteers to come and help.

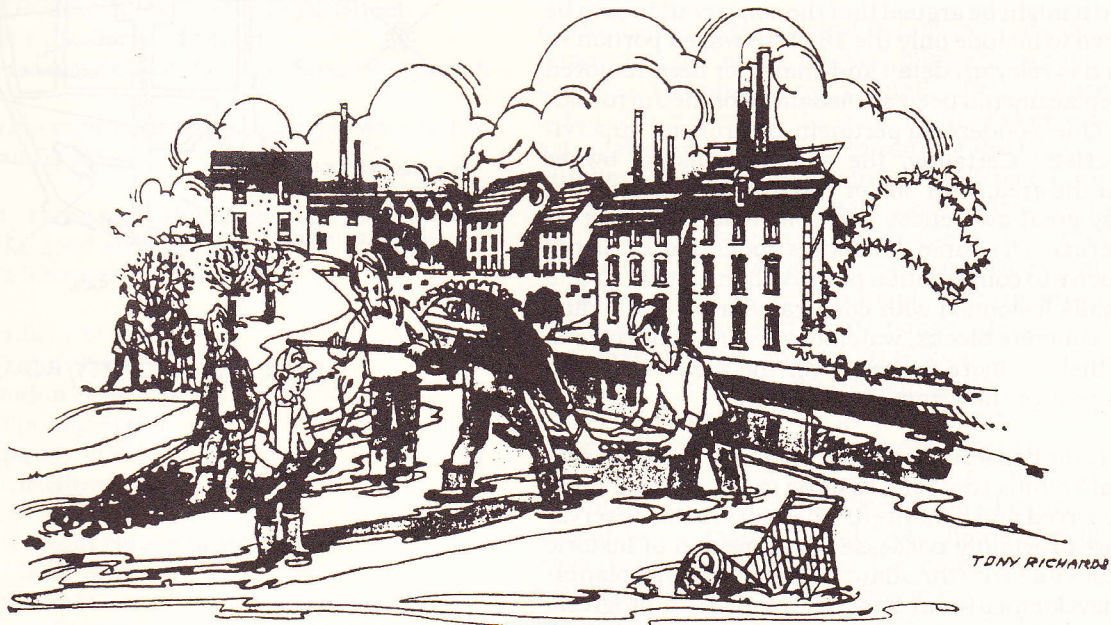
Both in the countryside and in our towns and cities, nature needs a helping hand, there's a lot to be done to ensure that wildlife can thrive and in many cases return to a regenerated environment. That's where you come in, along with us. Conservation Volunteers is about people of all ages coming together to do important practical work in their local areas, it's also a chance to learn and develop skills, meet new people and get involved in caring for the environment. "Think-

ing Globally and acting Locally" is an easy practical step to really doing something for the planet. By replanting or recreating woodlands here we are slowly helping to rebuild the "lungs of the world" the same as with nature trails and gardens, by building these we help wildlife survive. All our tasks are such that no matter what your abilities are, we can cater the work to suit you. Whilst on task, our field officer provides on-hand training and at our training centre in Clondeboye, Co. Down we offer a full range of training courses in countryside skills and conservation practices, which are available at very keen rates to volunteers.

Conservation Volunteers organises weekly tasks here in the city, usually Tuesdays and Thursdays and we are always looking for new members. Our minibus will transport the volunteers to the site and although tea or coffee is provided, a packed lunch is required. Regular working clothes and footwear are needed for all tasks.

If you can't make midweek tasks, there are special tasks organised as part of our "Natural Break" programme. These tasks are held at weekends and sometimes they are a week long working holiday, these tasks would require booking your place through our office. Also, here in Derry, a local group called Foyle Conservation Volunteers organise weekend tasks around the city.

So, now's your chance to **DO** something for the environment, come along and see us at the Foyle Arts Centre (around the back). We look forward to seeing you.



# THE WALLED CITY OF DERRY

## A CONSERVATION AREA!

by J.J. Tracey

Derry has two conservation areas - Londonderry Historic City Conservation Area - declared such in February 1977 and Londonderry Clarendon Street Conservation Area in February 1978. These declarations gave Derry the distinction of having two, while other towns might boast one or none. A walk around each of them fourteen years later does not fill one with the sense of being in a special environment unless aspects other than architectural character and historical ambience delight the beholding eye. Let's recall its definition.

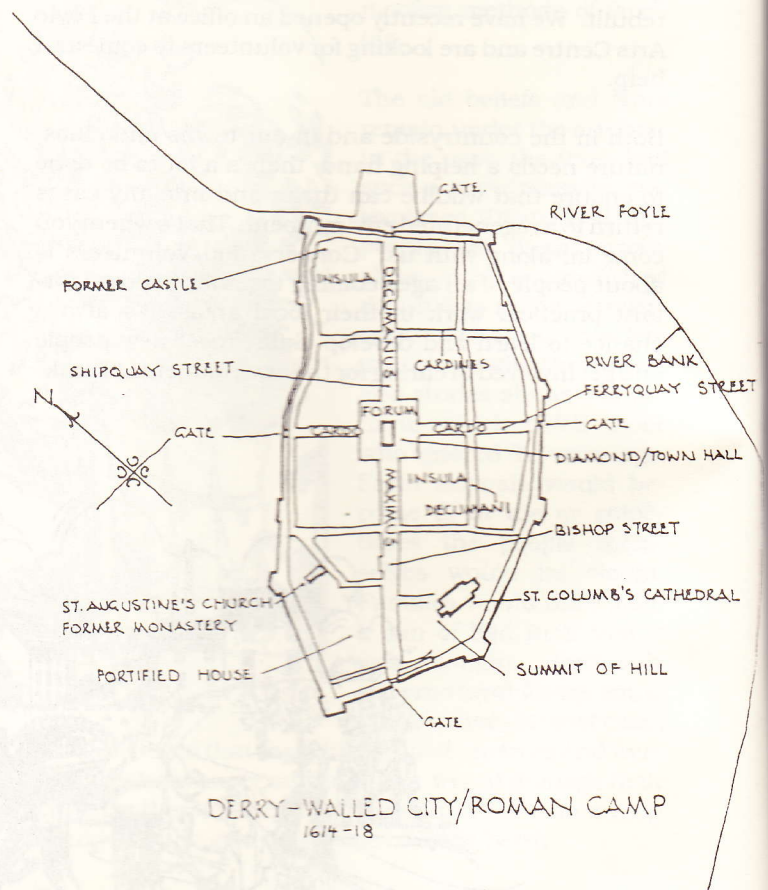
The boundary of the area extends beyond the walled area, encloses St. Columb's Church and its environs, the area between Bishop Street Without, Lecky Road, St. Columb's Wells' park, Chamberlain Street, Harvey Street, High Street, Waterloo Street, Custom House Street, Harbour Square, the Guildhall and its environs, Foyle Street as far as Water Street, Orchard Street, lower and upper Fountain Street up to Bishop Gate.

Apart from including the historic Long Tower church and part of the river frontage, the area boundary was so extended to include 18th and 19th development exterior to the walls. This admirable intention has been somewhat mitigated by the wholesale demolition of houses in Fahan Street, Nailor's Row, St. Columb's Wells, Long Tower Street, Gallagher's Close, Howard Street, Holywell Street and Fountain Street. Not alone have these houses been removed but the intimate streets and spaces erased.

Worse, much of the replacement or non-replacement has not been sympathetic in form and character. Indeed it might be argued that the conservation area be redrawn to include only the 1614-18 walled portion so much has relevant detail and character been removed and replacements been so disdainful of the surroundings. One wonders do pertinent control and supervision exist. Certainly, the average building owner within the area, with one or two exceptions, does not display great awareness and sensitivity in conservation terms. Of course difficulties abound and it is not conducive to conservation preservation to have streets and walls festooned with corrugated iron, scaffolding poles, concrete blocks, watch towers and radio masts. Nevertheless, more concern over the area as a whole might reduce the armoury of the latter.

What is the conservation area? It is an area possessing special architectural and historic interest which must be preserved and enhanced. The walled city conservation area certainly possesses great wealth of historic interest - its early Christian, medieval sites, its plantation development and later 18th and 19th progress. Within it are four positively identified medieval sites, though three of them have no signs on site to proclaim them to the visitor. Its 17th century walls enclose a

square grid pattern of streets reminiscent of a Roman military camp or town - debate exists which came first. The main street of a Roman town usually ran from the gate in the middle of one wall to the opposite and was called the decumanus maximus (Shipquay Street / Bishop Street within). The main traverse street was the cardo (Ferryquay Street / Butcher Street). The meeting of the two locates the forum which was usually in the angle of the intersection unlike the Diamond which is central on the crossing. The parallel and lesser streets were called the decumani and the cardines and the enclosed spaces the insulae. Examples of such town layouts can be seen along the Adriatic coast - Porec is one. The former Roman town of Cœrwent in Britain is another.



Architecturally the conservation area contains much of great interest with over forty listed buildings as follows:

Walls and Gates

St. Columb's Cathedral  
St. Augustine's Chapel  
First Derry Presbyterian Church  
Former Bishop's Palace  
Convent of Mercy, Pump Street (former Inn)  
Nos 6 & 8 Shipquay Street  
No 33 Shipquay Street  
Former Belfast Savings Bank, Shipquay Street  
Bank of Ireland, Shipquay Street  
Former Munster & Leinster Bank, Shipquay Street  
Allied Irish Bank (former Provincial Bank), Shipquay Street  
County Club, Bishop Street  
The Deanery, Bishop Street  
Former Irish Society House, St. Columb's Court & Bishop Street  
McCandless's Shirt Factory (former Hotel), Bishop Street  
The Court House, Bishop St.  
Former County Council Offices, Bishop St.  
Apprentice Boys' Hall, Society Street  
No 2 Butcher Street, Butcher Street  
Austin's Department Store, The Diamond  
Synod Hall, London Street  
St. Joseph's Former School, Pump Street  
Nos 18 & 19 Magazine Street  
St. Columba's Church, Long Tower Street  
St. Columb's Boys School, Long Tower Street  
St. Columb's Infant's School, Long Tower Street  
War Memorial, The Diamond  
Former Library & Reading Rooms, Castle Street  
Custom's House, Harbour Square  
Harbour Offices, Harbour Square  
Post office, Custom's House Street  
Northern Bank, Shipquay Place  
Guildhall, Shipquay Place  
Commercial Buildings, Nos 3-17, Foyle Street  
St. Columb's Hall, Orchard Street  
Cathedral Primary School, London Street & Church Wall  
Former Commercial Paper Company (previously Hotel), Guildhall Street

In addition to these individual buildings the following terraces make good streetscape:

St. Columb's Terrace  
Palace Lane  
Nos 8-12 Artillery Street  
Nos 10-28 Pump Street  
Nos 4-22 London Street  
Nos 4-40 Shipquay Street  
Nos 1-5 Shipquay Place  
Nos 1-33 Foyle Street  
Nos 3-9, 6-18 Orchard Street  
Both sides, Custom House Street  
Nos 1-3 Guildhall Street  
Nos 1-3 High Street  
Nos 1-3 Harvey Street

Much has happened in the last fourteen years to change some of the face of the conservation area. These changes took the form of bomb damage, demolition due to new development, demolition due to site clearance, streets and lanes obliterated, new buildings, new shop facades, protective screens and security paraphernalia. It would be pleasant to report that the character of the conservation area had been preserved and possibly enhanced. Unfortunately the reverse prevails and there is little to enthuse about in new development. In fact the general presentation makes depressing viewing. Attributes of the conservation area's architectural detail and form disappear monthly.

The following has been lost since conservation area declaration:

1. The pleasing scale of nos. 2,4,5,8,12,14,16,18 and 20 Ferryquay Street, Nos. 7-12 and 17 and 4 The Diamond, Nos. 5-23 Linenhall Street, Nos. 1,3,5,7,12,19,21,23,27 and 31 Shipquay Street. Included among these were the former Derry Journal's offices of 1771.
2. Both sides of Richmond Street with the exception of the Provincial Bank (now AIB) and the street itself encased.
3. 2-7 New Market Street
4. East Wall most of which had been demolished before the declaration but since the Y.M.C.A. premises were demolished.
5. Butcher Street demolished except for Nos. 1 and 2.
6. Magazine Street Upper all buildings except First Derry Presbyterian Church & Apprentice Boys' Hall.
7. Fountain Street, Orchard Street Nos. 9-23
8. Nos. 7-9 Society Street and No 8 Castle Street.

Much loss of architectural detail has happened e.g. removal of old name fascias, pilasters, scrolls, door fanlights, Georgian window detail. Much replacement detail does not retain the refinement of skim moulded astragals and this applies to some of the high ranking buildings. The courthouse in Bishop Street has had its former windows replaced with modern divided aluminium windows. Bowden's courthouse is one of the finest in the country and it is depressing to record poor guidance given by Government departments in replacement, repair and maintenance. Details on listed buildings like Nos 30 and 36 Bishop Street, Nos 2-4 Shipquay Place, No 28 Shipquay Street, No 1 St. Columb's Court, No. 8 Shipquay Street, No. 2 Castle Street, Nos. 4,5 and 6 The Diamond, not to mention the historic walls where the handsome stonework of the triumphal arch which has been allowed to deteriorate almost to the point of total loss. Items of sculpture have disappeared, such as the pieces on the courthouse and the Mitchell building in Foyle Street, and on the walls have appeared disastrous would-be art excrescences, matched only by the standard waste paper

receptacles, railings and lamp-posts which grow around the city's streets like a spreading fungus. It is with relief that one reads in the newspapers that some affluent American is removing some of the former, not I hope, as works of art but as memorabilia of a lost opportunity.

It is not all a tale of ineptitude, ignorance, destruction, vandalism and carelessness. The retention of the little houses in Palace Lane, as residences, renews hope, the careful maintenance of the architectural detail of the Northern Counties Club deserves praise, several shopfronts, the infill work of the Inner City Trust between Magazine Street and Shipquay Street, the restoration of the Guildhall, the General Post Office and the Harbour Office and the refurbishment of Nos. 18 and 19 Magazine Street.

Probably the conservation area boundaries should be reconsidered and limited to within the walls of the 17th century town and with a perimeter space of, say, 100 metres beyond them, the latter space being kept to control building height, form and materials adjacent to the walls. Much stricter control should then be exercised within the smaller area. Guidance by the Town & Country Planning Service should be given in greater detail than at present available. Each street with buildings should be illustrated in drawn form, with illustrations on how the vacant spaces should be dealt with. At present development operates in a vacuum with no comment offered until a submission is made.

The conservation booklet issued in 1977 needs to be greatly extended to include suggestions in pictorial form as to how buildings within the area should be considered. The street pattern should be inviolate. After the walls, St. Columb's Cathedral and St. Augustine's site, it is the street pattern which has great importance in the historical sense. Places like Stable Lane, Richmond Street, Linenhall lower should be re-established. To make this sense more significant the building scale, character, juxtaposition, details and materials must take account of this. If this is done the conservation area will be worth retaining, will be worth visiting and will rank as the leading historic and tourist centre in the country.

## Heritage

*The view from my window  
Front and back is pleasing.  
The factory has been sand-blasted  
Inside and out, and a coffee-shop  
Installed where the time-office was*

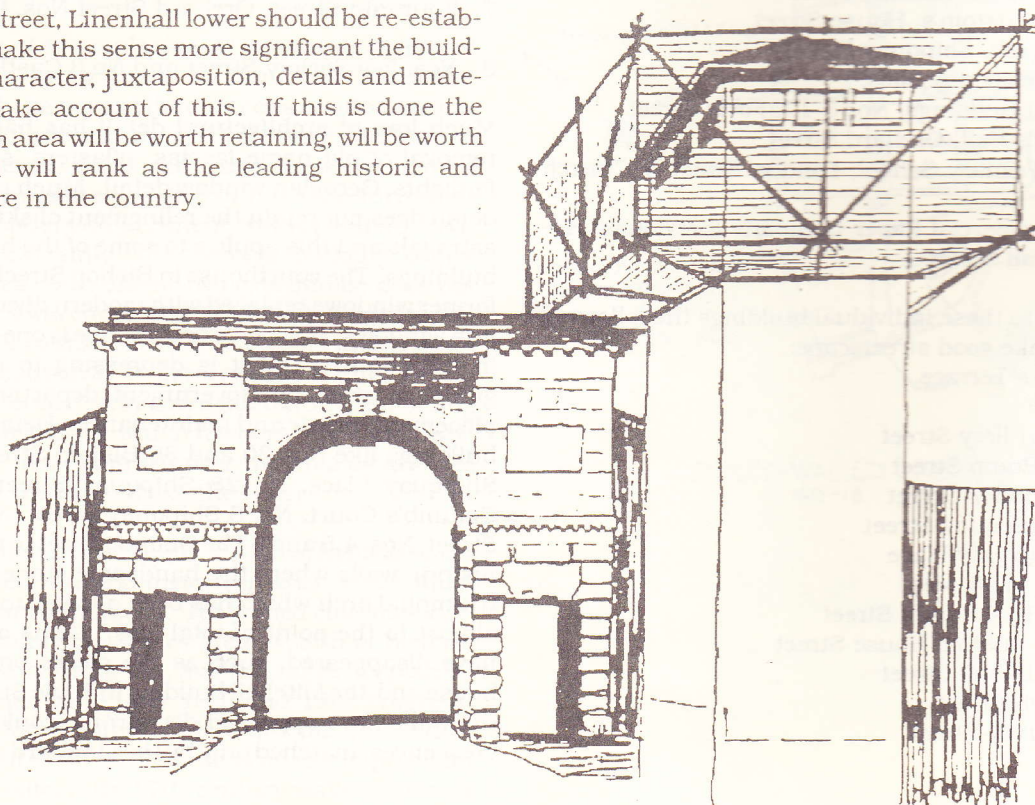
*The water-wheel has been restored  
Nicely, and benches for picnickers  
Established on the shorn grass.  
Two swans, imported, glide  
Up and down on the tide*

*The only thing is  
I can't get used to the silence;  
The ticket collector  
By the gate and the slim cashier  
From the cafeteria*

*Seem never to engage  
In sly or noisy dealings  
Where fast remarks might salt  
Their long days. They don't play  
Or lark, and they never make up songs*

*To celebrate rest, or signal protest*

Sam Burnside



# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by ANNESLEY MALLEY

For those people who live in a village, town or city where streets and roads have a name, the history of the street can sometimes lie in the name itself. Many names can derive from occupations such as distilling i.e. Distillery Lane, or Sugarhouse Lane off Foyle Street, which stems from the old business with once occupied the site in the 1820s. Other long gone occupations such as tanning and nail making were remembered in Tanner's Row off William Street and Nailor's Row just outside the city walls at the Royal Bastion.

In general, many towns have similar names called after public buildings such as Guildhall Street, Custom House Street and Barrack Street. Streets were called after Kings and Queens such as Albert Street and Victoria Road or simply King Street and Queen Street. The same applies to streets named after famous people, like Nelson Blutchter and Wellington or their battles such as Waterloo etc. These names can sometimes give the age of the street away. Other notable people such as Mrs C. F. Alexander or Micah Browning of the Siege have given their names to the Alexander Memorial Cottages and Browning Drive.

In Ireland, it was the custom, when the new Lord Lieutenant was visiting the city, to call a street after him and such names as Carlisle Road, Spencer Road, Clarendon Street and Richmond Street were all named by this method. The years of their office can be the clue to the street's age. In the case of Clarendon Street the

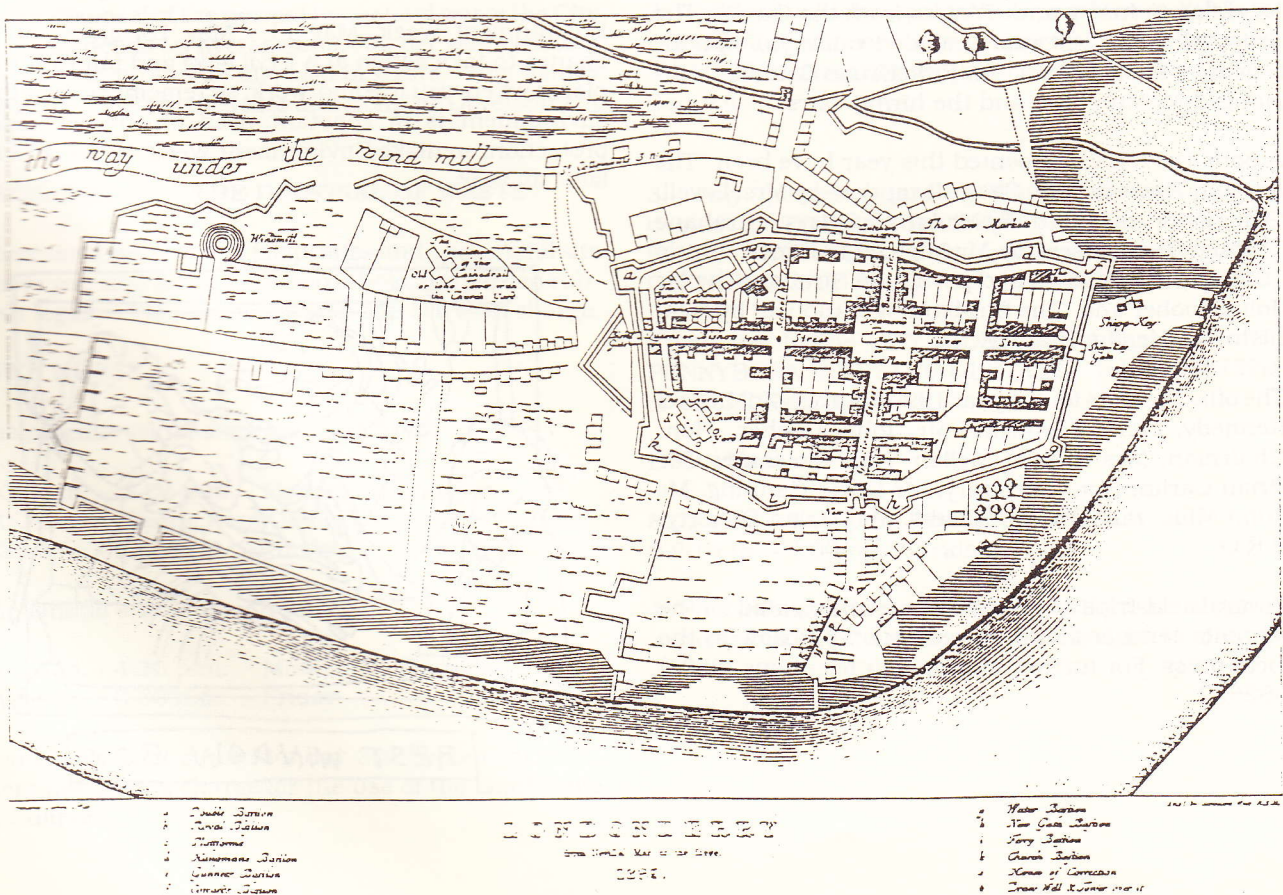
name was changed from Ponsonby Street after Bishop Richard Ponsonby, in 1847, when Lord Clarendon became the Lord Lieutenant.

The mayors of the city would also leave their mark in a street name and such mayors as Hogg, Stanley, Kennedy and Lecky all have streets named after them. In certain parts of the city, local landowning families such as Bond, Montgomery, Tillie, Brewster and Fox had streets named after them. In the Waterside the White family had their christian names added to the street ie Barnwall Place and Margaret Street.

Some streets would indicate the place to which they led. For example Fahan Street, Buncrana Road, Limavady Road, Dungiven Road etc. Others have taken their names from the church or religious connections. They are St. Columb's Court, Chapel Road, Abbey Street, Bishop Street and Deanery Street.

The residents of some streets have given their street a nickname as is the case with 'Honeymoon Row' at the bottom of Duncreggan Road or 'Jampot Row' which lay in behind a house at the bottom of the Racecourse Road. The set of steep steps leading from Carlisle Road to John Street is locally known as 'Breakneck Steps'.

The map shown below highlights the city in 1689 and the streets inside the old city and the changes of name that have taken place in three hundred years.



## STRABANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



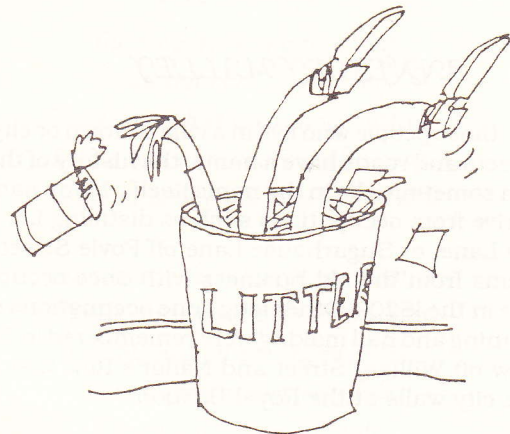
Strabane Historical Society was formed three years ago to meet the growing interest in local history in the town. It was formed by a group of local teachers, who were promoting these themes in schools. So great was the local interest that the general public was invited to attend the meeting. The audience, which regularly numbers 40-50 people, consists of school pupils, principals and teachers, old age pensioners, retired professionals, local historians and many others. The group meets at 8:00pm on the last Thursday of each month in Strabane Teachers' Centre at Urney Road.

To date the group has held activities, which have included exhibitions of old photographs, talks on the local flax industry and "Voices from the Grave". The programme for last year included railways, canals, Sigerson, Book of Kells, The First Urban Council, Half-Hanged McNaughton and the hiring fairs.

Among the topics presented this year have been "The Life and Times of Mrs. Cecil Alexander" by Mrs. Lovell, "The History of Lifford" By Mr Arthur Spiers, "Strabane Through the Lenses" by Mr Michael Kennedy, "Early 19th century famines and poverty in Strabane" by Mr John Dooher and "The Strabane Workhouse" by local historian Mr Jim Bradley.

The office bearers for the year 1990-91 are:- Mr Michael Kennedy, Hon. President, Mr John Dooher, Hon. Chairman, Mrs Brenda Mellon, Hon. Treasurer, Mr Brian Carlin, Hon. Secretary, Mr David Canning, Mr John Mills, Publication Officers, Mr Declan Doherty, P.R.O.

Several field-trips and site visits are anticipated for the summer term and announcements will follow in the local press. For further information telephone (0504) 382632.



## EVERY WEEK IS ENVIRONMENT WEEK.

Why have a special **Environment Week** when groups of all kinds are working globally and locally to protect and improve our environment every week of the year?

**Environment Week** is one week when we can highlight what has been done over the last year and how much more *needs* to be done and take steps to **get it done**. It's the week when we can look to involve everyone—community groups, schools, businesses, local councils and thousands of individuals in taking positive action for our environment.

The whole world is under threat from environmental problems.

Environment Week, May 11 - May 19, gives you a chance to take action at a *local level* and improve the places where you live and work, so remember, that the environment is in constant need of our care and protection, so make **Environment Week** the week that lasts all year.



# ANTI-LITTER INFORMATION

## WHAT IS INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING?

It is the deliberate dumping of waste anywhere in the open air other than at an official dumping site. People who engage in indiscriminate dumping don't particularly care where they dump. In the Derry City Council area the places they use include side streets, rivers, woodland picnic areas, country roads and other people's gardens. Even when a skip is provided, some people dump their rubbish on the ground beside the skip instead of putting it inside the skip.

## WHY SHOULD ANYONE CARE ABOUT INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING?

There are three main reasons why we all should be concerned about indiscriminate dumping.

1. It poses a serious health hazard by providing food and shelter for not only RATS but also disease to breed.
2. It destroys our environment. Many of the areas within the Council District are being totally destroyed by people who just do not care about the effects to the environment of their illegal dumping. Many of our most attractive features are being left as eyesores and thus creating the wrong impression for visitors and prospective employers alike.
3. It is very expensive to clean up. On top of the bill for the disposal of the normal household waste the City Council spends on average £80,000 per year cleaning up the indiscriminate disposal of waste. This money comes partly from the rates and from the Development Office.

## FACILITIES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE?

There are three amenity (skip) sites and one landfill site where you may dump your household and garden rubbish legally. The use of the skip site is free of charge.

### OPEN HOUSE

The amenity (skip) sites are open from:-

- 8.00 a.m. - 8.00 p.m. - Monday to Friday  
5.00 p.m. - closing from October to April  
8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Saturday

The landfill site is open from:-

- 8.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. - Monday to Thursday  
8.00 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. - Friday

Please note that since Monday 3rd September 1990, there has been a charge for the use of the landfill site at Culmore.

## NO PRIOR NOTICE

Unless your rubbish contains poisonous or polluting material, no prior notice of your arrival at the amenity (skip) or landfill site is necessary.

## THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE THE BULKY ARTICLES FOR YOU.

You may take the rubbish to the amenity or landfill site yourself but if there is anything too bulky for you, Derry City Council will arrange to collect and dump it for you free of charge. This offer does not apply to building material.

## DERELICT MOTOR VEHICLE

The City Council will arrange and remove a derelict motor vehicle for you too, free of charge, provided that the cost of its removal is not unreasonably high.

Please Note:

Household rubbish includes such things as waste food, unwanted items of furniture, clothing and domestic appliances.

1. Building material may only be dumped at the Landfill Site at Culmore.
2. Rubbish which is poisonous or which is liable to cause pollution may not be dumped at any of the sites without first obtaining the permission of the Derry City Council.

3. Any queries regarding Waste Disposal, please contact the Technical Services Department. If you live in the WATERSIDE areas contact the office at: - GLENDERMOTT ROAD - Tel. No. 44929

If you live in the CITY SIDE contact the office at: - PENNYBURN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE Tel. No. 267379 or 365151 Ext. 216

Both offices are open from:

- 8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Monday - Thursday)  
8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. (Friday)

4. This information was accurate at the time of going to press but the Council reserves the right to alter or

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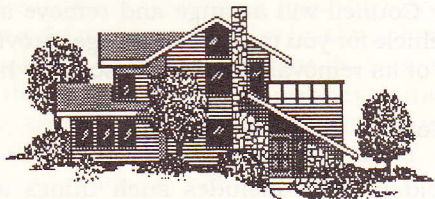
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• Acknowledgement: Timothy Webster for the Cover Illustration.

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