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**The Regeneration of Derry
Through the work of the Inner City Trust**

by

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INTRODUCTION

I was born on the 12th July 1972 at the height of the troubles in Derry and Northern Ireland. I have watched my home town blossom from violence and dereliction into vitality and this gives me a feeling of positivity, hope and excitement for the future. I have been in college in Dublin for the last three years and when I return home at weekends or holiday periods I become more aware of the regeneration in the city and I am proud of it. I wanted to describe this rebirth of spirit in my town and its regeneration but it was too broad an area to study so I focused on one aspect of its renewal - the work of the Inner City Trust.

When I was researching my thesis during the summer of 1994 I got part-time work in the Inner City Trust and this gave me first hand experience of its work. I was also able to interview some of the key personnel involved, including the Trust's director Mr Paddy Doherty. They gave me their time and patience generously, enabling me to gain a more complete insight into their work that would not have been possible otherwise.

The history of the "troubles" in Derry has been well documented. Eamon Mc Cann's "War and a Irish Town", for example, details the social and political conditions which prevailed in Derry before the outbreak of violence in 1968. He gives a graphic first hand account of the sequence of events during the worst period of street violence in Derry, and gives a detailed analysis of its causes and effects. Brian Lacy in "Siege City -The story of Derry and Londonderry" traces the evolution of the city from a simple monastic settlement to a bustling modern city. "The Troubles The background to the question of Northern Ireland" edited by Taylor Downing details the build up to the troubles in Northern Ireland between Protestant and Catholic. "Only the rivers run free. Northern Ireland: The womens war" by Eileen Fairweather, Roisin Mc Donagh and Melaine Mc Fadyean covers a selection of short stories

and accounts by mothers and daughters of all ages who have their story to tell about the “troubles”. These books tell the story of Derry from a wide range of perspectives, all of which have influenced my thinking in the preparation of this thesis.

In this study I will include photographic evidence of the terrible physical damage which Derry suffered in the 1960’s and 1970’s as a result of rioting and the bombing campaign of the Provisional IRA. When you look at these photographs you get some idea of the enormity of the task which faced those who were concerned with healing their wounded city. The bombing was an act of self destruction difficult to understand in today’s atmosphere of emerging peace. In a sense it was a scorched earth policy revealing desperation and political despair. These photographs show only the damage to buildings, they do not reveal the physical and psychological injuries inflicted on so many people throughout the “troubles”.

The regeneration of the physical fabric of a city is a difficult task, and the photographs of restored buildings which I have included document that achievement clearly. People, however, cannot be replaced and some scars may never heal. Beautiful buildings can rise from the bombed out sites but they should be a reminder to us too of the people who suffered and died in this terrible phase of our history. We should not forget them.

The Inner City Trust were aware of the effects of violence and unemployment in the community and they sought to address them in their work. They believed that the building of self - confidence in a wounded society is also important and I will detail later the various employment and workshop schemes which they initiated to try to address this problem.

In chapter one I will give a brief historic account of Derry before the Trust was set up, looking at the situation within the city during the troubles, and how the physical fabric within the walls had been destroyed.. The idea of

self - help from the grassroots began with Mr Paddy Doherty; he set up the Inner City Trust, and its sister organisations, the Derry Youth and Community Workshop and the North West Centre for Learning and Development.

Chapter two will examine the aims and objectives of the Trust which are as follows:-

1. The Regeneration of the Inner City
2. The Creation of employment opportunities
3. The Promotion of education and training
4. The Promotion of the tourist potential of the city.

In chapter three I will evaluate the work of the Inner City Trust using photographic evidence.

Chapter One

Before examining in detail the work of the Inner City Trust it would be useful to give a brief outline of its historical context. This is necessary to appreciate not just its "bricks and mortar" achievements but its significance as a cross community enterprise at the time of its formation. Even the area in which it began its work, the area within the Walls of Derry, is steeped in historical significance.

The name of the city too is contentious. To the largely nationalist population it is known as Derry and to the minority unionist population it is Londonderry. The prefix "London" was added by Royal Charter in 1613 as a result of the granting of the city and surrounding areas to a group of London companies.

The name Derry is derived from the old Irish word "Doire" meaning an 'oak grove', and with the establishment of a monastery there in the 6th Century by Columba it became known as "Doire Columbkille".

Derry is the second largest city in Northern Ireland and has a population approaching 100,000 people. It is situated on the banks of the River Foyle and in the words of Arthur Young the 18th Century travel writer "the view of Derry at the distance of a mile or two, is the most picturesque of any place I have seen; it seems to be built on an island of bold land rising from the river, which spreads into a fine basin at the foot of the Town". Earlier resistance to the Vikings and Normans meant that Derry was not properly developed like other Irish cities such as Dublin; Derry paid an economic price for its dignity. Derry was therefore largely an isolated monastic settlement up to the latter half of the 16th century with only the occasional inter-tribal dispute. It never developed into a thriving port of trade and commerce as other Irish cities did. There are very few remains of its earlier history but it is widely believed that the stones of the earlier Augustinian Abbey founded in Derry were incorporated into the walls built by the settlers in the 17th century plantation. Before Elizabethan times the population around the monastic

settlement was believed to be very sparse, and the town grew slowly through the 17th and 18th centuries.

It was in the earlier part of the 19th century that energetic growth began to take place and, as the population grew, it expanded outside the city walls. The port expanded too, though this was largely due to emigrant movement. Those who could not afford to emigrate stayed to swell the population

Derry improved and grew throughout much of the 19th century but after the 1880s it declined and stagnated. Ironically its strategic naval position gave the City some growth and work during the two world wars but the most crippling factor in its decline was the partition of Ireland which had split its hinterland and stunted its possible development. The policy of the majority Unionist Party in Northern Ireland was to favour development in the largely Unionist eastern side of the country. Meanwhile the largely Catholic population of Derry was growing rapidly and unemployment was high.

The policy of the local Unionist Party in Derry also added fuel to the smouldering fire of frustration in Derry by operating a system of electoral manipulation known as "Gerrymandering". The crude idea behind this system was to structure the ward boundaries so that the catholic population were confined to certain electoral wards which could only elect a certain number of local councillors while the wards with a smaller protestant population could elect larger numbers of unionist councillors. This resulted in a situation where one third of the local electorate could vote in a majority of unionist councillors and thus control the local council which in those days had much greater power over important decisions affecting the city. They also controlled housing allocations and, by confining Catholics to certain wards and restricting any new housing development, added greatly to catholic resentment by creating a serious shortage of new housing and overcrowding in old housing.

It was in such an atmosphere of political and social despair that certain people in Derry began to look at self - help schemes as a possible way of overcoming the sense of frustration in the community and among these were people like Paddy Doherty and John Hume who, together with a small number of people, began a local Credit Union branch to provide cheaper credit and saving facilities. It went on to become the largest branch in Ireland.

This, together with the Derry Housing Association, formed by local people to build their own houses, created a sense of purpose in the community and, more importantly, gave people a sense of their own power. They felt they no longer had to wait and suffer while somebody else changed the system. They could change things themselves. This sense of confidence which the community was beginning to feel helped to fuel the Civil Rights campaign which took to the streets in 1968. These marches were met with violence from the State who saw the demands of the campaign as a serious threat to the established order. One of the largest Civil Rights marches took place in Derry on Craigavon Bridge in November 1968. See figure 1.

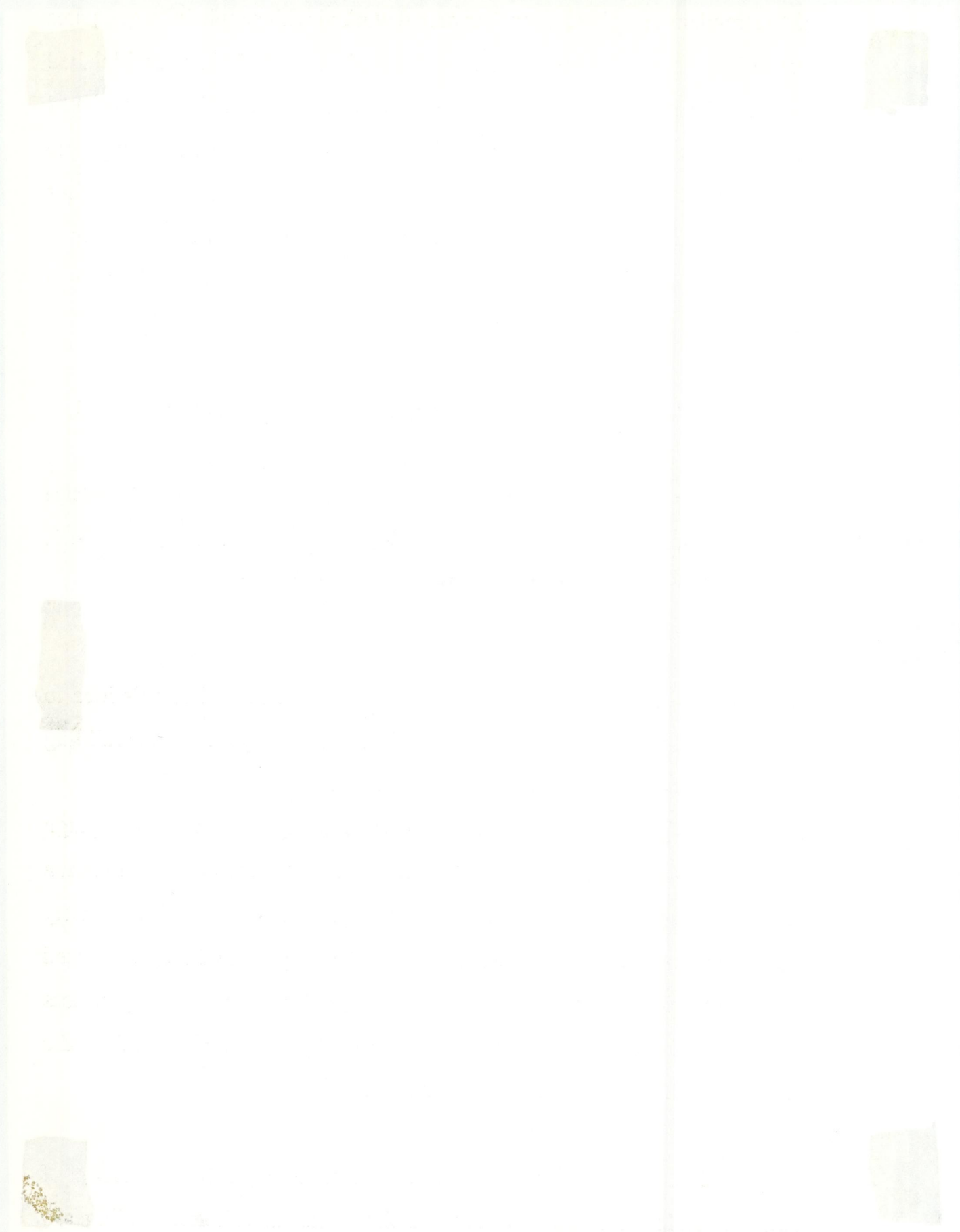
The resistance of the Unionist government to such universal demands for reform and justice brought the spotlight of publicity at last to the festering political, social and economic problems of the region. Under the able leadership of the Civil Rights campaign worldwide attention was focused on the problem but it was too late to prevent the violence erupting and one of the most significant expressions of this was the "Battle of the Bogside" which took place in August 1969.

Paddy Doherty, then named "Paddy Bogside", gave crucial leadership to the besieged community during those frightening days. He had seen, as had John Hume and others involved in community projects, that some way would need to be found to give people back their sense of dignity and hope for the future in a practical way before the violence totally engulfed them.

It was in 1972 that Paddy Doherty met Ivor Brown, Professor in Psychiatry



Fig 1 The Civil Rights March on the Craigavon Bridge in November 1968.



at St Brendans Hospital. Ivor Brown had worked with people in large estates around Dublin and had set up community projects in Ballyfermot which had attracted the attention of some people from Derry. Brown and Doherty worked together discussing community organisations and the dynamics of how people fail. When Doherty had talked to groups of people in Derry there was always what he described as a "sunburst of creativity", followed by a huge decline. Then negativity and low esteem set in. His experience of community groups was that they eventually fell apart.

One day in Doherty's office Brown pointed to the map of Derry and said,

It is like a human cell - cells communicate with the outside world and this city has gates. Make the inner city what it was in the early Christian days. Instead of building a large university or institution, employ people to rebuild the inner city. Look at the old city, make it what it was by rebuilding derelict buildings. Remove the plastic sheeting from bombed out buildings; regenerate, working from the centre point.

(Interview with Mr Doherty, 19th July 1994).

Derry is well known as an historic walled city and Ivor Brown's idea to "make the inner city what it was in the early Christian days" meant rebuilding and developing the city along an historic theme.

During the 1970s the centre of Derry was devastated by the bombing campaign of the Provisional IRA. Banks, offices, shops, residential accommodation and other premises were damaged or destroyed. In 1981 Paddy Doherty walked around the city with architect, Charlie Hegarty and they discussed the need for development. The city had decayed and abandoned premises were abandoned; it had lost its pride and no longer attracted trade from the outskirts of the city or tourists from abroad.

They realised that the city would need to be reborn by the regeneration of buildings and the restoration of original sites. The stale air that had lingered for so long and caused such depression would need to be lifted. People were tired too of all the trouble and fighting.



Figs 2 and 3 are photographic evidence of the physical damage which Derry suffered in the 1960's and 1970's.



Paddy Doherty had been the driving force behind the setting up of the Derry Youth and Community Workshop in 1978. He began working with unemployed young people in the city to restore derelict buildings in the town centre using, as far as possible, the original stonework and rubble in these schemes.

There was a sister organisation called the North West Centre for Learning and Development (NWCLD) which had grown out of the experience of community workers in Derry since the 1970s. They too proposed to draw up a scheme to enhance the old city of Derry.

The Centre for Creative Communications (C.C.C) is an ongoing project of the North West Centre for Learning and Development established in 1992. The ancient Gaelic name for the city - Doire- means "oakgrove" and the C.C.C. logo shows an oakleaf falling gently on the sea, causing ever increasing ripples in the form of the letters C.C.C. Derry and the North West is a place of learning and a centre for the celebration of cultural difference which sends ripples of transformation through our local and global communities. They believe in the transfer of people and their ideas across international boundaries and seeks ways to move beyond the constraints and brutalisation of tribal warfare, physical peripherality and needless dependencies. They believe in social innovation and cultural diversity.

The first building restored by the NWCLD was situated in London Street within the walls and the photograph in chapter two shows the very successful outcome of their efforts. This success boosted confidence and stimulated newer and bigger ideas. Charlie Hegarty, an architect, worked along with Paddy Doherty discussing schemes for regeneration within the walled city.

Doherty took these schemes and ideas to a senior civil servant who suggested that he put together a board of Trustees made up of people of influence in the city from both sides of the community. Doherty saw the need to have a board which would have representatives of the community on it but would also be

able to give the range of professional experience necessary to get things done. He therefore approached the representatives of all the main churches in the area, the mayor as head of the local council and a selection of experts in various professional fields from both sides of the community. Obviously an expert would be needed in architecture, finance and law and these were duly selected. A well known local author of international reputation was appointed to represent the broad cultural interest. The list of Trustees is set out in Appendix 1.

A major part of the Trust's work is also to promote reconciliation in a community torn apart by political conflict and this has been achieved to an extent by involving both the Protestant and Catholic communities of Derry in working together to improve their physical environment.

As a priority the board had to set up an organisation which would help them achieve the objectives they had set for the Trust. Tasks were defined and people were appointed to carry them out. I have set out in Appendix 2 the organisation chart which was drawn up. It clearly defines the areas of responsibility and authority of the key personnel..

The Trust's objectives have been refined from the broad initial concepts as follows:-

1. The regeneration of the inner city.
2. The creation of employment opportunities.
3. The promotion of Education and Training.
4. The promotion of the tourist potential of the city..

CHAPTER II

1. The Regeneration of the Inner City

This objective was the basis on which the organisation was founded. Doherty and others, having witnessed the destruction of the City in the late sixties and throughout the seventies, sensed the hopelessness and lack of interest in many people. By actually carrying out some rebuilding work they hoped to show that something could be done to give a positive uplift to the City in the middle of so much despair. It was to be more than the regeneration of the building of the City, it was to regenerate a sense of hope among its people. But in setting out to restore old buildings and build anew on old sites, one enters an area of controversy. How is it to be done? How faithfully could old buildings be restored? What materials were to be used? In new buildings what style of development was appropriate and what materials were to be used? Frank McDonald in "The Destruction of Dublin", looks at how and why Dublin was so badly destroyed by redevelopment. He states that

The only reason why Dublin remained for so long the beautiful 18th century City the English built was that the Irish were too poor to pull it down. This unfortunately, is no longer the case.

(Mc Donald "The Destruction of Dublin "1985 pg 6)

Other cities throughout the world have had a similar experience. Planners and developers can destroy the spirit and ambience of a place by tearing down historical sites simply because it is cheaper. As Mc Donald also observed:

"Suddenly Dublin has become a shabby city - shabby because its centre is peppered with crude concrete structures, flashy mirror-glass facades and other inappropriate schemes which have no connection at all with the spirit of the place."

(McDonald "The Destruction of Dublin" 1985 pg 2)

Many of the issues which confront organisations attempting to regenerate their cities were aired at a major conference in Derry hosted by the Foyle

Civic Trust entitled "Derry - a successful Historic City?" during May 1992.

Dr Peter Harbinson, archaeologist, former member of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in Ireland and Chairman of the National Monuments Advisory Council outlined the historical traditions of Derry. He demonstrated how the early monastic settlement had contributed to the Celtic ethos and character of the city. He pointed out how the town plan drawn up by the London Companies in 1613 was based on the classic Greek grid system and was the first major piece of town planning Ireland had seen.

Another speaker at the same conference, Mr David Williams, a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and Head of the Regeneration Unit of the Civic Trust in London pointed out that in practical terms buildings must have an economic purpose, a social purpose and must involve local people. Quality buildings, he stated, need a good architect, a good quality builder and a developer who does not regard the architect as a threat to his profits. Good development involving new buildings or old buildings should seek, he said, to put the heart back into the City, to generate confidence, to be sympathetic in scale and form and colour. In short, care needs to be taken for the places where people live and work.

Mr Frank Benson, a Chartered Engineer, Town Planner and former Chairman of An Bord Pleanála, quoted from the Green paper on the Urban Environment published by the Urban Commission in 1990 where it stated that mere zoning must be replaced by a policy to develop a city as "a product" which will ensure a new quality of social and economic life. Cities are a living organism, which must change, which must accept new and old to live in harmony. One of the key elements in "growing a successful city", Mr Benson said, was that the local authority had to have a strategic vision and a means of realising that vision. He stated that as we move into the next century, it will be those cities

and towns which seek to build on their own individuality and uniqueness which will best succeed.

Mr John Roche, Chief Planning Officer of Galway examined the purpose of cities. In modern times, he stated, their purpose was to provide places where people could meet face to face, do business, and have discussions. Vibrant cities are centres of art and learning, of commerce and creativity. Cities, he said, have a heart where people can display their personality and culture. But the development of a coherent plan and vision was essential as a first step. To carry out the plan it was necessary to assess the assets and uniqueness of a city. Effective and long lasting renewal is not just a question of accepting any sort of redevelopment on the basis that anything is better than nothing. Desperation, he said, is dangerous and the developers needed to know that the local authority was behind them all the way.

He also talked about Galway which, like Derry, had experienced phenomenal growth in the last 25 years. The population had doubled and it was becoming a major tourist and conference centre. Galway had suffered from dereliction but it was now an attractive place for traders and tourists. He showed slides of the city with before and after shots of particular buildings. They had respected the original medieval street layout and had made a variety of older features blend in with the modern architecture in a way that looks and feels comfortable.

The final speaker at the Conference was Professor Gianni Perbellini, President of the Europa Nostra/IBI Scientific Council who dealt with the need for reconciliation between the conservationists' attachment to the past and the need for modern development. Conservation, he said, must be regarded as an integral part of the development process.

The aim of the conference was to explore the importance of developing the city with regard to competition from other European cities for economic

investment and quality of life. It is important to recognize the historical characteristics of a city. Yet cities change and old and new should work in harmony to develop a vibrant marketable product.

The buildings which the Inner City Trust undertook to redevelop and build are shown in the following maps:

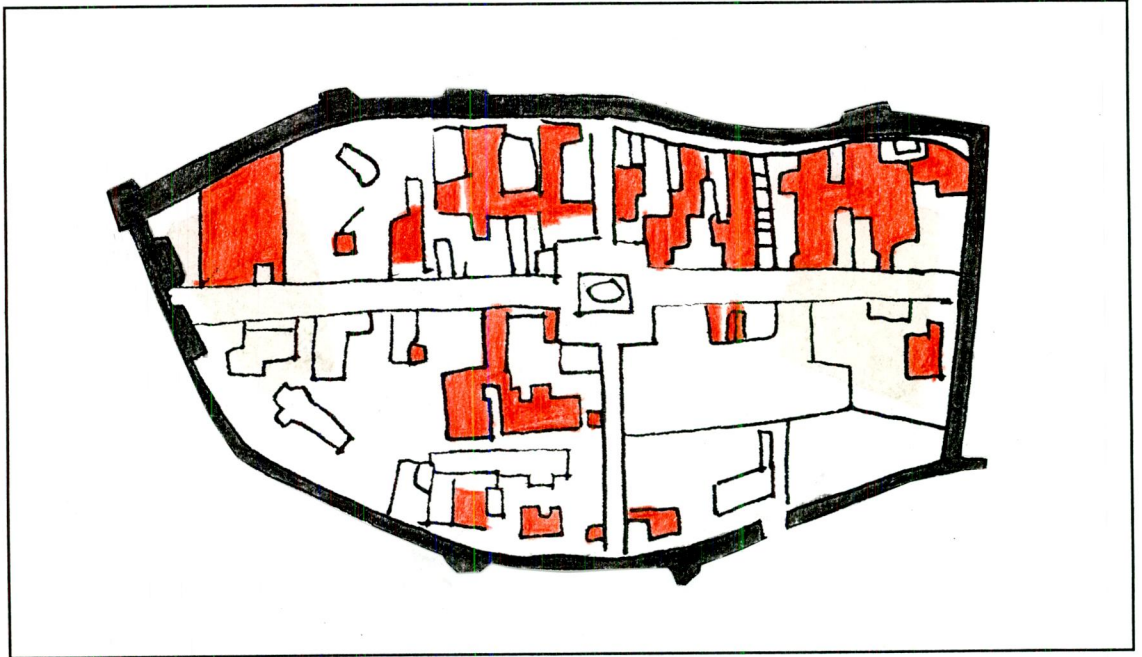


Fig 3 Map in red shows the areas of dereliction in the inner city

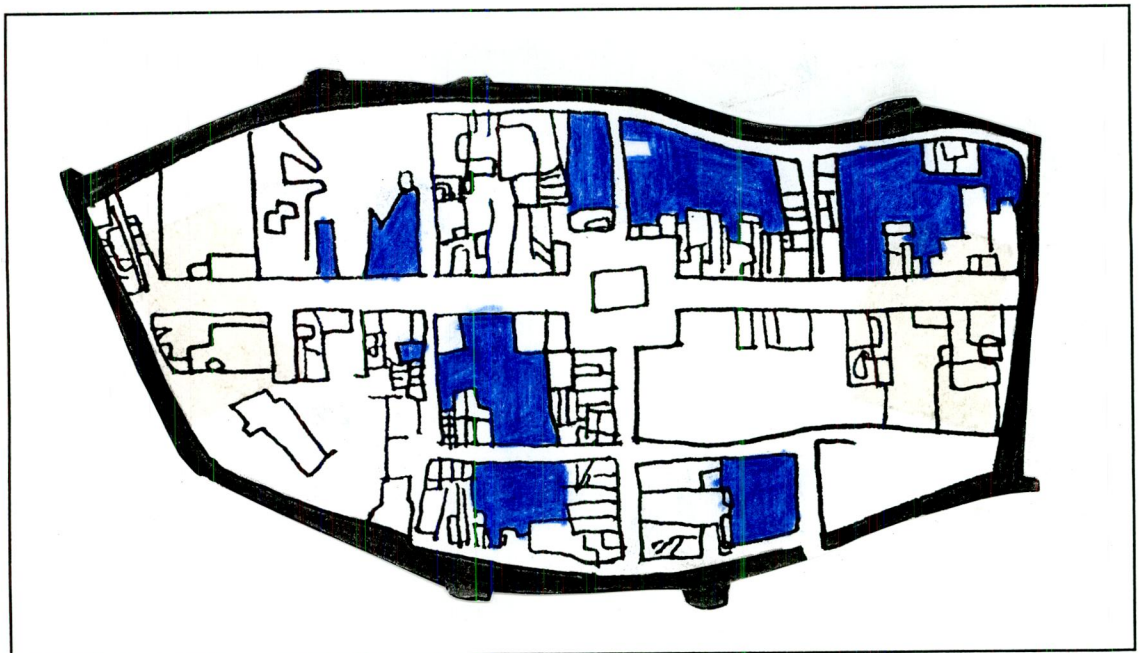


Fig 4 Map in blue shows the buildings which the Inner City Trust refurbished and built.



Fig 3 shows the result of a survey carried out by Mr Charles Hegarty of HMD architects. 30% of the inner city properties were bombed out, derelict or dilapidated. The Inner City Trust's architects decided that they would try to restore as much of the original character of its restored buildings as was practical. Wherever it was possible buildings were restored using as much of the original material as possible. Old bricks and stone were salvaged from demolition sites within the city and used in restoration work. Obviously it would have been easier to use new materials to imitate and recreate buildings but the decision to use the older salvaged materials has helped to give their buildings a more genuine textural quality. The retention of earlier architectural features such as arches and passageways so common in old Derry has also greatly helped to keep a strong sense of the original structures. It is important to try and impart to tourists this unique sense of place.

Their work began in London Street and figures 6,7,8 shows before and after photographs. Fig 6 shows the result of one of the earliest projects undertaken in London Street. One can see from the top photograph the extent of the decay and dereliction of the building. Note the attention to architectural detail in the restoration, and in particular, how the highlighting of the ground floor window surrounds emphasise the window panes and convey a sense of warmth and intimacy.

Fig 7 shows a building in London Street which was another of the earlier projects undertaken. One can see clearly the attention given to the detail of the facade. All of the original architectural features have been faithfully restored, and the effect of its brightness and warmth on the streetscape can be felt even from these photographs.

Fig 8 shows the restoration of a building in Magazine Street and is one of the entrances to the Craft Village. Note how the original stonework arches which were a particular feature of old Derry have been retained. The Trust's architects had the good judgement to know when the original cannot be



Figure 6 Before and after photographs of London Street.



Inner
City
Trust

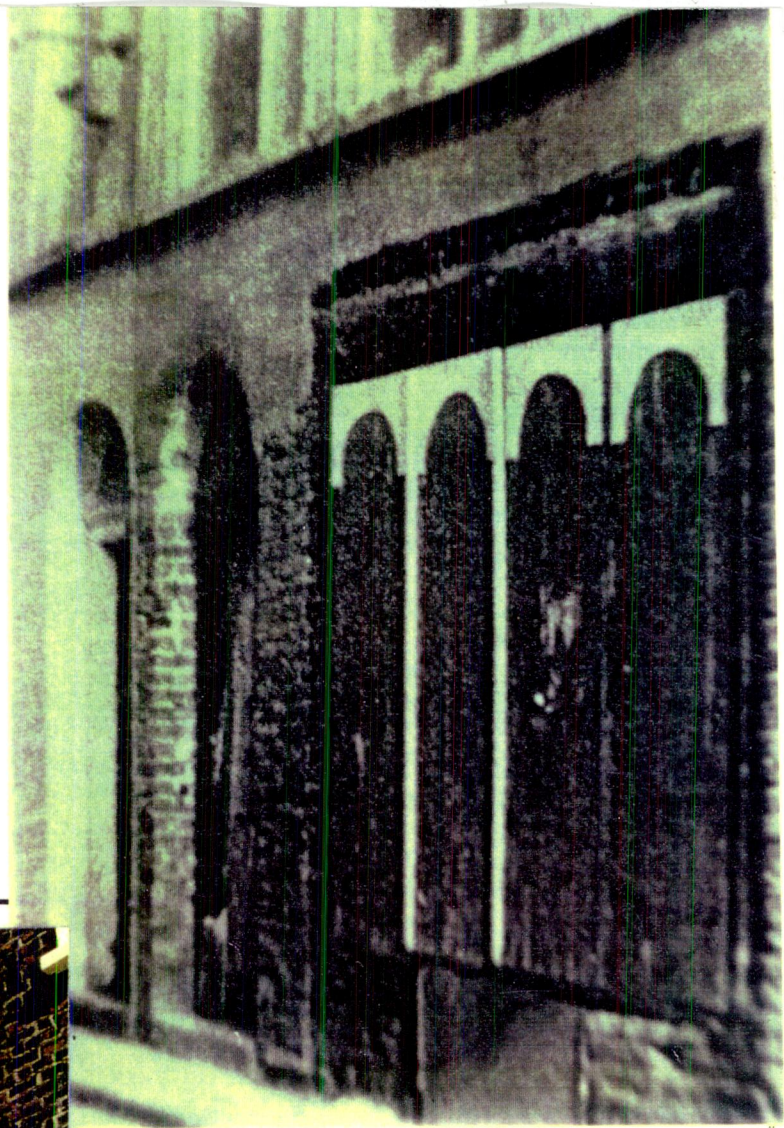


Figure 7 London Street



Inner
City
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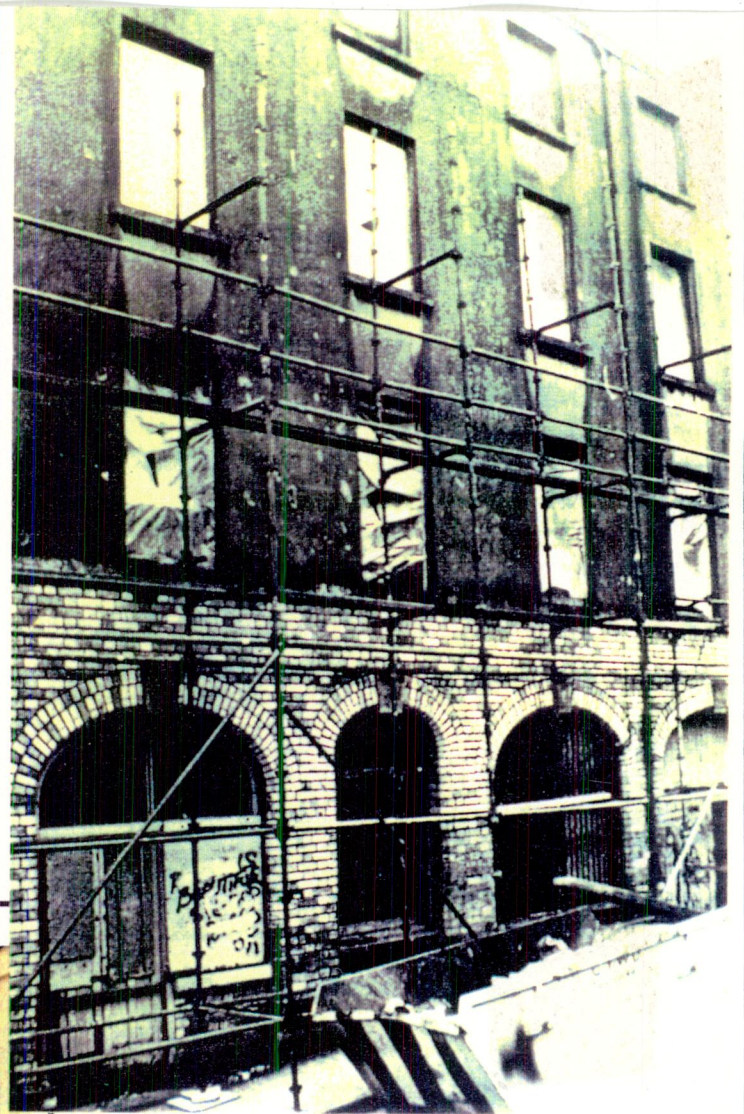


Figure 8 Magazine Street.

improved upon. Note also how the pavement and street furniture work carried out by the Department of the Environment are in harmony with the buildings

Map B fig 4 shows the properties owned or refurbished by the Inner City Trust. In appendix 3 I have listed the restored buildings and given a brief description of each.

2. The Creation of Employment Opportunities

The unemployment rate in Derry has always been high. The City's current unemployment rate is 30% and rises to 80% in some of the most disadvantaged areas. This is partly due to its geographical location but in recent times it has also been due to the political conflict. The image of the City abroad has been poor and the international coverage of the violence has been a disincentive to potential investors here. Multinational companies seeking to invest in other countries prefer, for obvious reasons, a stable, settled environment where their company personnel and their families can settle in safety. Local workforces too have to be free from the disruption of community conflict to be productive and efficient.

Long-term unemployment in particular has been very high in the Derry area and this ethos has passed down through family generations creating negativity and low self-esteem. This in turn has led to a situation where the younger generations feel they have nothing to lose by becoming involved in paramilitary organisations. As Seamus Deane, a Derry poet has written:-

DERRY

The unemployment in our bones
erupting in our hands in stones
The act of violence a grief
Our bitterness and love hand in glove

(Deane: N.W.C.L.D. Year Book 1981 pg 14)

The Inner City Trust was well aware of this situation and sought to devise projects which would employ and train people to give them some experience of the dignity of work. To generate confidence in themselves to get a feeling of independence and a sense of pride and ownership were intrinsic to the objectives of the Trust. The Inner City Trust and its sister organisation, the North West Centre for Learning and Development have 450 people in employment and training. Seventy residential units have been built within

the inner city together with 30 workshop/retail spaces for small businesses and one hundred permanent jobs have been created by businesses using these commercial units within building projects.

The Trust has received support and assistance from the Northern Ireland Department of the Environment who have contributed £2 million in grant aid to urban development projects in Derry, and this is estimated to have generated a further £4 million in investment. The Derry City Council puts forward £120,000 annually to help maintain the Trust. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board, International Fund for Ireland, European Regional Development Fund and the Irish-American Fund also also major contributors. The Trust is an agent for the Action for Community Employment (ACE) scheme supported by the Training Employment Agency and also the European Social Fund (ESF). Both schemes provide courses in administration, construction, the environment, community care, personal development and internal courses run by the Trust. A full list of courses can be found in the Appendix. Restoration and rebuilding has created employment for plasterers, bricklayers, painters/decorators, joiners, roofers and glaziers.

3. The Promotion of Education and Training

The second and third objectives are closely linked. The Trust is a charity and depends primarily on private sources to generate revenue. Initially it was difficult to convince government bodies to back them but the appeal of their project proposal on education and training led to them receiving funding eventually. It stated -

The training which is offered to young unemployed people must be concerned with the broadening of experience rather than the narrowing of knowledge and personality. It should concentrate on the development within young people of an awareness of themselves in relation to social processes as well as developing other skills and abilities.
(Boyle Project Proposal 1978 pg 14)



Figure 9 Photograph of men at work on a project.



Education and training are promoted in the wide variety of courses listed in appendix 4. It is important for an employee to undertake a number of these courses which are arranged through the training officer who will schedule it into their placement year. There is a wide selection of courses for both male and female suited to all ages based in different training centres around Derry. This is an important objective of the Trust because as well as the regeneration of property one has to remember that the rebuilding of people through training and employment will help to boost self-confidence and independence.

"Habitat for Humanity" is a programme organised over three months in the United States during the winter season. It brings 20 people from different religious denominations to work together in training schemes, for example, administration and construction work. The Americans have always been generous in supporting the Trust in this type of project.

In 1986 the Trust won the prestigious Charles Douglas Home Award for the most outstanding example of community enterprise. This was presented by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales on behalf of "The Times" and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

CHAPTER 3

The achievements of the Inner City Trust are most evident in the fulfilment of their fourth objective - "To promote the tourist potential of the City".

Tourism is an excellent investment, it can bring a great deal of money to an area as well as generating employment. But what attracts tourists? We all know when we visit other cities that the lasting impression which we take away with us will be shaped by our image of their centres. The spirit of a city and its people is reflected there in many ways and as citizens we understand how much our civic and even personal esteem are affected by the appearance of our city centre.

The recovery of the City centre after years of neglect, dereliction and destruction has been difficult and it was not just the fires and bombing of the 1970s which made it a daunting task. The Derry Area Plan published in 1968 had already indicated the pressures for change and the problems which Derry faced then.

Among these were:-

1. The need to improve and refurbish building stock which was in some cases over 300 years old.
2. The rise in private and commercial vehicle ownership creating a demand for more car parking and better roads.
3. The changes in patterns and standards of retailing with demands for new shopping areas

4. The changes in industry and the need to get out of old inaccessible city centre sites to modern more spacious sites elsewhere.

These pressures for change and redevelopment were there in Derry before the bombing campaign started and they added to the problems of regeneration of the City's fabric. It was the Trust who transformed whole blocks of the walled area of the City; they created new buildings and saved and renewed many older buildings.

Tourists will also be attracted to an area which can offer a variety of diversions and can cater for a wide range of interests. There are many people interested in tracing their family roots and the provision of a genealogy centre was, therefore, one of the most successful initiatives of the Trust. Parish records and emigration listings were computerised to make research easier for those interested in tracing their family history. The main element of the Inner City Trust's promotion of tourism, however, to provide buildings which can house artifacts and explain the history of Derry and its surroundings.

In relation to tourism the largest development which the Inner City Trust undertook started at the bottom of Magazine Street as shown on the map and extended all the way up to Butcher Street. The first phase of this project involved the construction of the O'Doherty Castle on the original site of the fort belonging to Sir Cahir O'Doherty, a 17th century Chieftain from Innishowen in neighbouring County Donegal. The story of how this site was acquired by Paddy Doherty is now a local legend. When it was finally established that the owner of the site was a property developer in London called Grossman, Paddy Doherty and his colleague John Shiels flew there to meet him to try and persuade him to sell the site to the Trust.

According to accounts the meeting went something like this:

Paddy Doherty: "The Inner City Trust would like to buy the site of the O'Doherty Fort in Derry"

Mr Grossman: "Sorry, but I can't mix charity with business. It would be like giving a gift with strings attached and my religion would not allow it. I must get the full market value or give it away for nothing".

Paddy Doherty: "I'm yer man!"

Mr Grossman was so taken by Paddy Doherty's direct approach that he did indeed give the Trust the site for the nominal sum of £1 and a friendship was formed between him and the people of Derry.

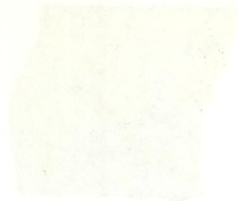
The Fort was built in the style of a medieval Irish castle and was originally intended to hold artifacts recovered from the wreck of the "Trinidad Valencera", a ship of the Spanish Armada which sank in Kinnego Bay off the North West coast of Donegal.



Inner
City
Trust



Figure 10 Before and after photograph of the O'Doherty Fort.



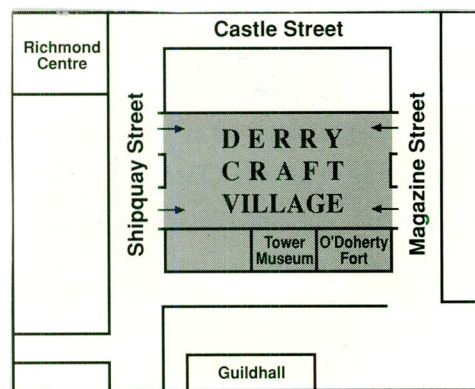
The completed O'Doherty Fort blends in with the historic Derry Walls. They used a similar stone to create the same tactile quality in the construction of the castle. The building was subsequently taken over by the Derry City Council and the Tower Museum was built beside it and integrated into the Inner City Trust tourist scheme. The museum, which has passageways through it reminiscent of old Derry, houses a collection of audio visual material, documentation, artefacts and stories all blended to give a very lively and interesting presentation, not just of its political history but of its geological origins and social developments. This history traces the development of Derry from the 6th century monastic settlement down through the centuries - growing in the footsteps of Vikings, Normans, Gaelic Chieftains, Elizabethans, merchants, craftsmen, weavers, seafarers, shipbuilders, shirtmakers and distillers. In its short period of operation the Tower Museum has won three prestigious museum awards.

The museum has a passageway leading to the Tower Museum shop in the Craft Village. The Craft Village has been designed to portray life as it was in Derry from the 16th to the 19th centuries. It combines retail, workshops and residential accommodation. One of its distinctive features is the individual style of its shop windows - each represents a particular period in Irish history and was chosen to illustrate the various changes that have gradually taken place in their design and appearance.

Many different craftspeople have set up business in The Village, for example, Edel McBride, Knitwear Designer, Patricia Gavin, Woven Textile Designer, The Craft Centre, selling a wide selection of handmade crafts designed by local people, Thran Maggis - a bar/restaurant attracting a good clientele and The Boston Tea Party - an old style tea room selling cakes and Bewleys Coffee.

The Craft Village, however, does not get the trade which it deserves due chiefly to its being located a short distance away from the natural flow of pedestrian traffic. Shoppers coming from the main thoroughfares do not pass through it and it is a place one has to plan to visit. It does, of course, get tourists and visitors but the businesses set up there need more local trade to be commercially successful.

Figure 11 these are four entrances to the Craft Village .



During the summer the Inner City Trust holds its annual Busking Festival, attracting buskers from all over Ireland. The buskers take up positions within the Walled City and the Craft Village. The festival demands months of planning and organisation to obtain sponsorship and advertising and to ensure that the event runs smoothly.

Just above the Craft Village on Magazine Street is Oak Grove Manor International Youth Hostel, run by the Daly Family it has 140 beds. It is reasonably priced and built to hotel standards. It opened in the Spring of 1993 and has been successful, accommodating over 9,000 tourists to date. The appeal of the hostel is that it is situated in the heart of the City.

Presently the Trust is finishing the 'Heritage Centre' on Butcher Street which is their largest development. It is a new hi-tech tourist attraction designed as a conference centre and will house 2,500 years of Celtic history. It will also incorporate the Genealogical centre.

The purpose of the Trust's fourth objective is to promote the tourist potential of Derry and I have talked about how they set out to achieve this through building the O' Doherty Fort, Craft Village, Youth Hostel and the Heritage Centre. The initial idea was to recreate historic buildings and house various artefacts there relating to their heritage. The photograph in fig 12 is an example of some of the work completed by the Trust.

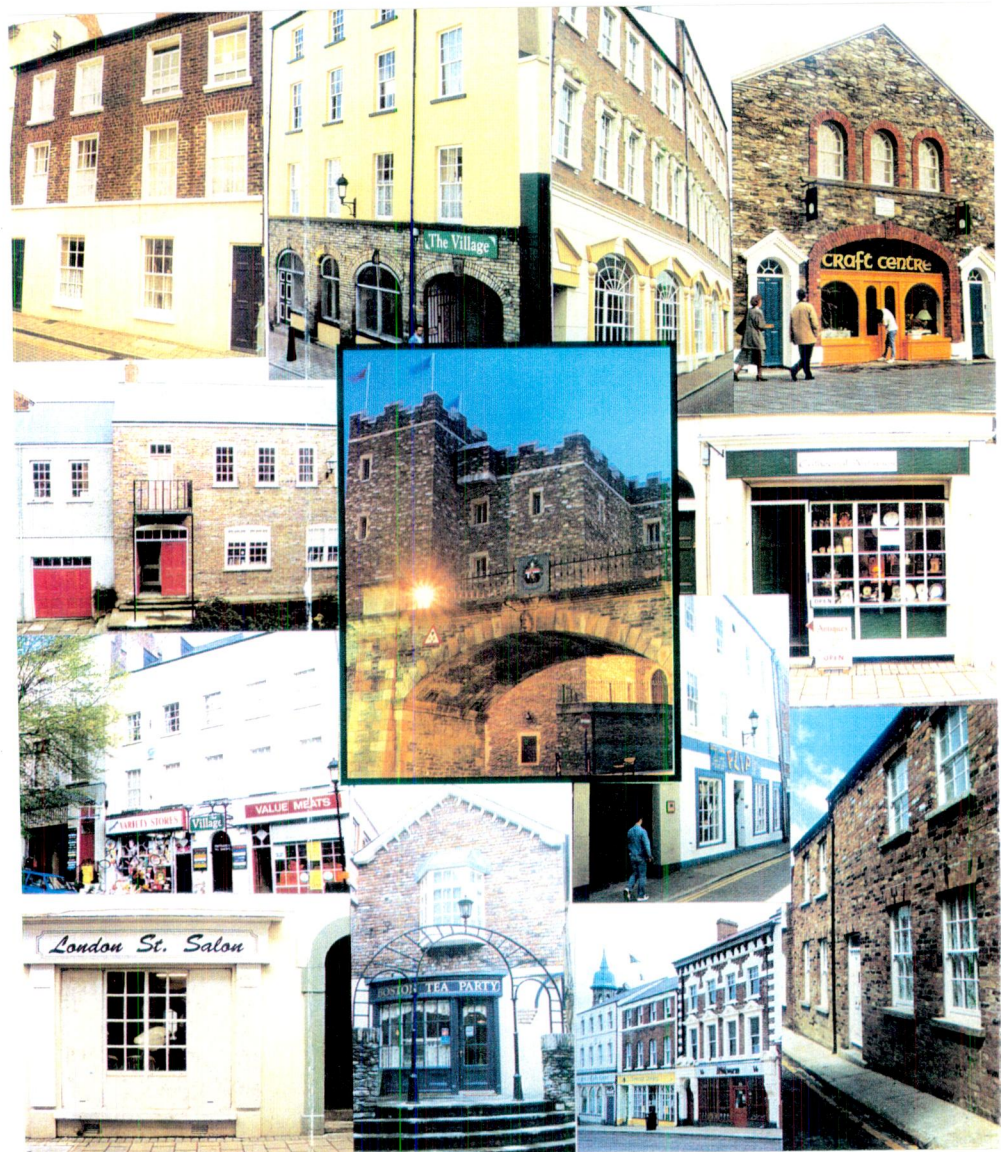


Figure 12



Having completed the buildings the Trust has developed into a multi-million-pound project receiving credits and awards for their success.

Frank Mc Donald author of "The Destruction of Dublin" is an environmental correspondent for the Irish Times. He visited Derry in 1983 to write an article for their paper called "Derry Renews its Architecture Roots". He examines the work of the Inner City Trust and says,

It seems almost beyond belief, but Derry is the focus of a major urban renewal project that is unique in Ireland. The people of this battered, beautiful city are now rebuilding it virtually stone by stone after years of devastation at the hands of the bombers and planners. Despite massive unemployment there is a new optimism in the Derry air. The place is a hive of activity; almost 250 young people have thrown themselves enthusiastically into the painstaking work of restoring old buildings and adapting them to new uses (Mc Donald The Irish Times 9/9/1983)

While the Trust has received credit and funding for restoring buildings they have not been totally successful in filling them; some of them still lie empty. The next stage is to market Derry as vigorously as possible. Money has been invested in the city over the last ten years, for example, a £70million pound shopping centre will be completed in May of this year as part of the Foyleside development. This centre has attracted some very prestigious companies such as Marks and Spencers, Virgin Megastore, Easons, Debenhams and many others who have never had branches in Derry. Tourism figures have increased but Derry with its historical characteristics has the potential to attract even more tourists from abroad.

The Trust recently set up a programme called Joint Action in North West Ulster toward Sustainable Development (JANUS). The Janus stone is an appropriate symbolic representation of this initiative with its head facing in different directions, looking at Derry and Donegal - the natural hinterland of Derry. Donegal has a high number of tourists who could be encouraged to visit Derry. The programme drawn up by Janus states:-

"Janus is a public awareness and consultation programme to be achieved

through an exhibition and conference programme emphasising regeneration in the North West and Border Counties"

The programme will run in conjunction with the Centre for Creative Communications (C.C.C) who have had experience in marketing exhibitions and conferences. The most successful to date was the "Beyond Hate -Living with our deepest differences" conference in September 1992, in Derry's Guildhall which consisted of lectures, discussions, seminars, publications and cultural exchanges. A number of distinguished personalities from around the world took part in the conference including Terry Anderson, Terry Waite, Laurence Jenco and Brian Keenan who had been kidnapped and held hostage in Beirut. The deliberations of this conference were published in book form in 1994. Janus are organising a conference and exhibition in May 1995. The exhibition will be held in the Templemore Sports Complex and will involve a wide range of companies from north and south of the border. After 25 years of trouble this is an important time to promote Derry and its hinterland. There will also be ongoing conferences in the new Heritage Centre which will involve all private and independent sectors coming together to present their plans and proposals for the millenium celebrations. This will be open to the public for discussion. These sectors will play an important role in the regeneration and development of the city of Derry and the North West. The main themes of the conferences will be:

1. Arts and Culture
2. Technology and Enterprise
3. Tourism
4. Cross-border co-operation
5. Economic Development

The Trust have mounted some exhibitions and events in the past which have been successful but they will have to continue marketing the city using the O'Doherty Fort and Craft Village to its full potential.

Many great things have already been achieved by the Inner City Trust but now is the time to take stock and set new tasks for the future. There needs to be an honest assessment of what has been achieved and what needs to be done. It is a time of great opportunity in Derry now and it appears that new funding and resources will be made available to help the city recover after years of community strife. There is little doubt that the Inner City Trust will continue to play an important role in these future developments.

CONCLUSION

I hope that my examination of the work of the Inner City Trust conveys the sense of optimism and positivity that now pervades Derry. Hope has been heightened too by the recent ceasefires and there is an air of expectation. Yet even if the peace does not hold I believe that the optimism will endure.

There have been many changes in the infrastructure of Derry since the 1980's including the new Foyle Bridge, the Richmond Shopping Centre, the new Central Library, pedestrianisation of the city centre, Enterprise Zones, Health Centres, improved road systems, the demolition of the Rossville Street flats, new office blocks, the expansion of the University of Ulster Campus at Maggee College, new student accommodation buildings, several new district shopping centres, the relocation and expansion of port facilities at Lisahally, the upgrading of the airport, a Science and Technology Park and the many valuable Urban Renewal Programmes initiated by the Department of the Environment. In addition there have been important industrial developments like the Fruit of the Loom factory, Seagate and expansion at the Du Pont plant. Smaller employment schemes funded by LEDU (Local Enterprise Development Unit) are also thriving. All of these have contributed to Derry's renewal.

The significance of the Inner City Trust, however, was that it was an initiative which grew out of the community. To have started building in the middle of so much violence, however, was itself a confidence and morale booster for Derry.

In summary the Inner City Trust has been successful to date in fulfilling its objectives. Some of their projects are still in the process of development and it is too early to assess their effectiveness. But when one looks at their four basic objectives one could say that in broad terms they have succeeded in achieving objective one as they have regenerated large areas of the inner city.

As regards objectives two and three relating to jobs and training one can point to the employment which was created by the pursuit of their first objective and also to the Derry Youth and Community Workshop which began as a local community employment initiative in the 1970s. Its sister organisation the North West Centre for Learning and Development was established in 1981 and was also a community inspired project designed to harness and develop ideas arising from within the community. It provided programmes for personal development and growth which also created employment and promoted education and training.

Their success in objective four the promotion of tourism is, however, more difficult to assess. They have completed the buildings but the dividend in increased tourism is not yet evident. This is a problem which may be more general in Northern Ireland. Everyone knows that the potential for success is there in tourism but only time and continued peace will see it fulfilled. There are problems to in the world market for tourism in the form of economic recession and a more discerning cost conscious tourist.

Overall then in assessing their objectives I would say that the Inner City Trust has had a fair measure of success and, given continued peace and stability, should be able to record more success in the future.

INNER CITY TRUST TRUSTEES

MOST REVEREND DR E DALY

RIGHT REVEREND DR J MEHAFFEY

BISHOP OF DERRY AND RAPHOE

MR MICHAEL MCCAFFERTY (CHAIRMAN)

CHARTERED ARCHITECT

MR JOHN MCDAID (SECRETARY)

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

MR JOSEPH FEGAN

FORMER MAYOR

THE MAYOR

CLLR MRS ANNIE COURTNEY

REV MAURICE BOLTON MA

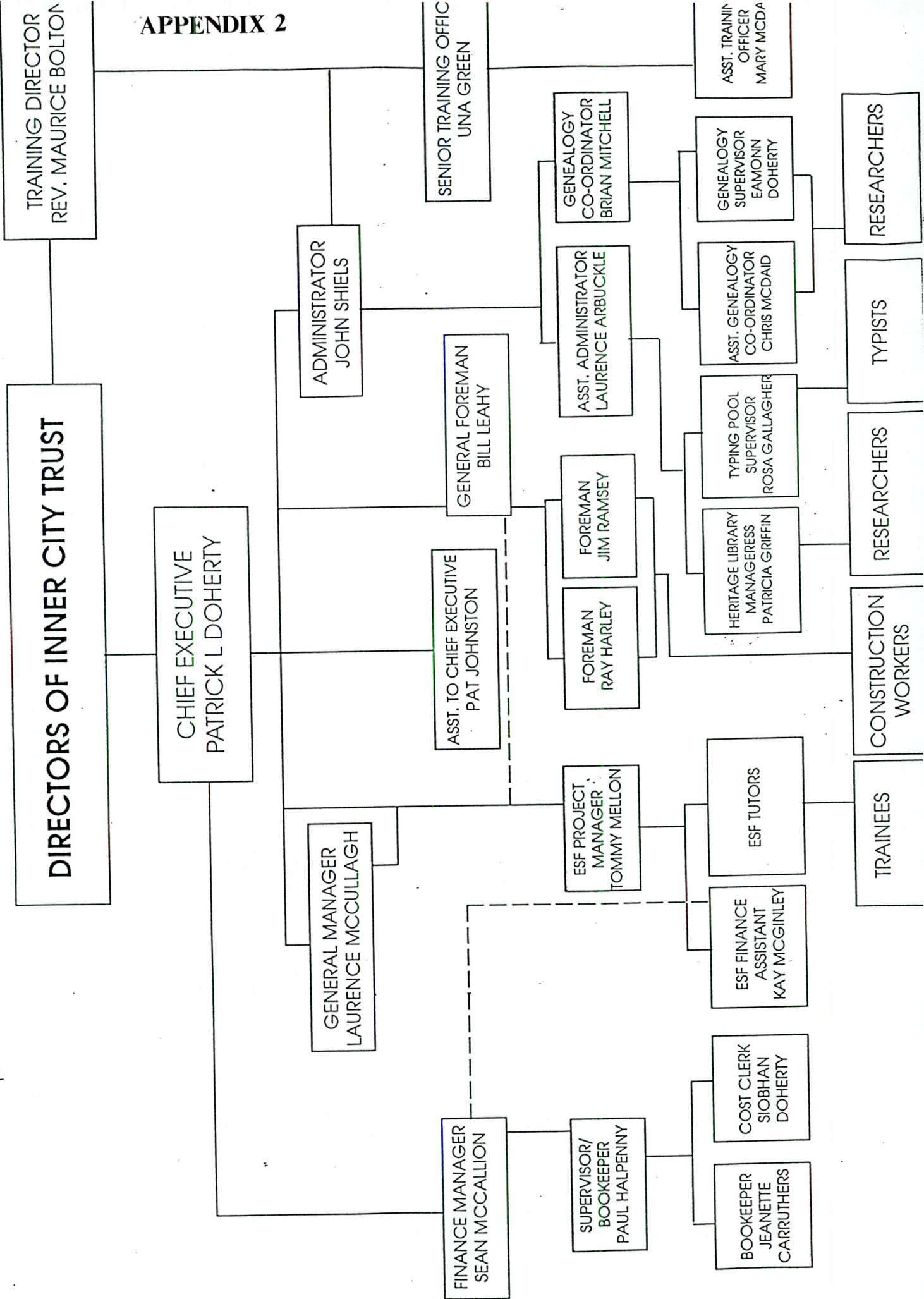
MODERATOR OF DERRY AND STRABANE PRESBYTERIES

MS JENNIFER JOHNSTON

AUTHOR

MR EDWARD HUEY

SOLICITOR



APPENDIX 3

London Street

This was the first street that the Trust began to restore in 1981 refurbishing buildings which had suffered dreadful dereliction.

Nos 3-5 "Will Warren House" is named after a local member of the Society of Friends and is used for peace and reconciliation studies.

No 12 "Ring House" was a gift from The Honourable Irish Society who were the local agents of the London Companies and own large areas of the City including the Derry Walls.

Bishop Street

No 8 "Pittsburgh House" This building was completely restored by the City's long-term unemployed and the refurbishment has been supported by Irish American citizens of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As part of the Derry City Council's tourist drive, the building now serves as the City's tourist information centre.

No 10-14 The Heritage Library is also called Hegarty House after Mrs Moira Hegarty O' Scannlain, a native of the City who presented the deeds of Bishop Street to the Inner City Trust in 1982. The Trust later refurbished the building and it was opened in 1983 as the Heritage Library. Mrs O'Scannlain's wish was to provide a meeting place for all denominations of the community where cultural, social and educational information would be readily available.

No 16 "Bookworm" - A community bookshop

No 19/20/21 - New premises for the Centre for Creative Communications

No 23A - Corner of Palace Street partly restored for the Foyle Homeless organisation and the North West Artists Association.

Palace Street

Nos 1-4 - Refurbished rented accommodation.

Butcher Street

The Heritage Centre also called the Calgagh Centre is currently under construction. This new hi-tech visitor attraction and conference centre will be fully operational by Easter 1995.

Opposite the Heritage Centre the Trust has also laid the foundations for a new 104 bedroom hotel,.

Magazine Street

This street is slowly recovering after years of neglect. Con McLaughlin House is named in memory of Mr Con McLaughlin, a tutor in the Derry Youth and Community Workshop who died tragically after a short illness in 1982.

The Nerve Centre - Home of the North West Musicians Collective, is currently negotiating to construct a major Multi-Media Centre which when finished will contain a state of the art recording studio, a 60 seat cinema,

space to teach a wide range of music and facilities to cater for 400 dancers.

In conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, the Trust have built 22 accommodation units for young homeless people as well as a drop-in centre.

Pump Street

Nos 10-16 When complete, will contain the administrative headquarters of the Inner City Trust and North West Centre.

No 11 - Is currently being refurbished. When complete the building will contain one large ground floor retail/office and four upstairs flats.

No 13 - Refurbished and sold to the Northland Centre - a voluntary organisation set up to give advice on alcohol and related problems.

No 18 - St Catherine's Convent of Mercy. When completed early next year this will serve as a small convent for the Sisters of Mercy.

I include here photographs of some of the projects undertaken and they show the dramatic transformations which were achieved.

ADMINISTRATION COURSES*RSA Typing Stages I, II, III**RSA Word Processing Stages I, II, III**RSA Computer Literacy & Information Technology**C & G 726-1-212 Computers & Computing**C & G 726-1-401 Database Methods**C & G 726-1-402 Spreadsheets**C & G 726-1-407 Desk Top Publishing**C & G 726-1-409 Introductory Word Processing**C & G Beginners Information Technology**(Springtown Training Centre)**N.V.Q. Level 2 Business Administration**Basic Information Technology**(Springtown Training Centre)**Introduction to Computers**(North West Institute of Further
& Higher Education)**RSA Book Keeping Stage I**Introductory Book Keeping & Accounts**(Extra Mural Certificate:
University of Ulster)**BTEC National Certificate Business Studies**Supervisory Management**(Institute of Supervisory
Management)*CONSTRUCTION COURSES*C & G 603 Mechanical Services**C & G 585 Carpentry & Joinery**C & G 594 Painting & Decorating**C & G 588 Trowel Trades Brickwork**C & G 590 Trowel Trades Plasterwork**C & G 236 Electrical Installation**C & G 3511 Plastering, Bricklaying & Tiling**C & G 3511 Painting & Decorating**C & G 3511 Joinery**C & G 600.1.01 Principles of Construction**C & G 600.1.11 Surveying and Levelling**Use of HILTI Gun**(Specialist)**PSV Driving Lessons and Test**(contribution only)**HGV Driving Lessons and Test**(contribution only)*ENVIRONMENTAL COURSES*C & G 9383 Horticulture**Dry Stone Walling**British Conservation Trust**Chainsaw Course**Enterprise Ulster**Thatching Course**Scottish Conservation Trust**Hand Held Applications (Use of Sprays)**Greenmount College*

COURSES UNDERTAKEN

COMMUNITY CARE / DEVELOPMENT COURSES

Rape & Incest Line (Various Courses)

BTEC Nat. Diploma in Social Care

Community Development Certificate

(Extra Mural Certificate)

University of Ulster

N.I.P.P.A. Introductory Certificate

in Supervisory Management Skills Day Care

Working with the Under Fives

Working with the Elderly

C & G 325 1 Community Care Practice

Special Educational Needs Certificate

Open University

Open University

*North West Institute of Further
& Higher Education*

(Extra Mural Certificate)

University of Ulster

(Extra Mural Certificate)

University of Ulster

N.I. Disability Action

Belfast Law Centre

Belfast Law Centre

Belfast Law Centre

(Extra Mural Certificate)

University of Ulster

Directory of Social Change

N.I. Community Relations Cl.

N.I. Community Relations Cl.

N.I. Community Relations Cl.

N.I. Community Relations Cl.

N.I. Community Relations Cl.

N.I. Community Relations Cl.

Workspace Draperstown

Community Drama and Improvisation

Video Skills for Community Action

Drama Workshop for Disabled

Basic Welfare Rights

New Disability Benefits Course

Better Off Calculation

Fundraising

Fundraising Roadshow

First Steps in Mutual Understanding

Prejudice Awareness Workshop

Conflict and Mediation Skills

Facilitating Political Discussion

Introduction to Community Relations Work

Action Learning Programme

Business Ideas Generation Workshop

C & G 324 Caring for Children 0-7 years

Basic Child Care Certificate

Basic Food Hygiene

Workers Education Association

Department of Environmental

Health

C & G 923 Photography

Leadership in the Cross Community

First Aid at Work Certificate

Marketing

N.I. Youth Action

St. John's Ambulance Association

(Extra Mural Certificate)

University of Ulster

C & G Child Care

Women's Aid Residential Training Weekend

Addiction Studies

*N.I. Women's Aid Association
(Extra Mural Certificate)*

University of Ulster

*North West Institute of Further &
Higher Education*

Ceard Teastas (Irish Language Teachers Cert)

Sign Language for the Deaf

Team Leadership

N.W. Deaf Association

*North West Institute of Further
& Higher Education*

COURSES UNDERTAKEN

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

Basic Maths
Basic English
Investment in Excellence
Communications Course
RSA Numberpower
RSA Wordpower
Self Assertiveness
GCSE English Language
GCSE Maths

Workers Education Association
Workers Education Association
Institute of Investment in Excellence
Holywell Trust

Workers Education Association

INTERNAL COURSES

Induction
Health and Safety Training
Job Search Skills
Customer Care

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INTERVIEWS

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