

OUR STORY THROUGH HISTORY

City Walls Built

This is the only remaining Walled City in Europe that is completely intact. They are approx. 1.5km in circumference

Northern Counties Club Formed

Primarily a gentleman's club, it is believed that the Northern Counties Club was established in 1881 by Army officers from the local gentry.

Guildhall Built

Over its 120 year history the Guildhall has been destroyed twice—by fire in 1908 and through bomb attacks in 1972. The Guildhall Clock was designed as a replica of 'Big Ben' in London and was the largest of its kind in Ireland.

Women First Allowed to Enter Northern Counties Building

During the 1930's the suffragettes picketed the club and as a result 30 ladies were permitted to join.

Bishop's Gate Hotel Opened

Empty since 2006, the building was acquired by the Inner City Buildings Preservation Trust (ICBPT) – the historic buildings restoration arm of the Inner City Trust group. It was transformed into a 30 bedroom luxury hotel creating approximately 70 new jobs and acting as a catalyst for wider development in the immediate area.

1618

1688

1880

1887

1902

1914

1932

1960

2016

Siege of Derry

The siege of Derry lasted 105 days from 18 April 1689 to 1 August. Some 4,000 of its population of 8,000 were said to have died.

Northern Counties Club Opened

The present building, which at the time was used as 2 private residential buildings, was acquired for £1200. Renowned architect Alfred A. Forman was responsible for remodelling the building.

World War I & II 1914 - 1945

During the First and Second World War the building provided mess facilities for Canadian and American soldiers based in the city, as well as local officers.

The Troubles 1960 - 1998

The Troubles was a period of conflict in Northern Ireland involving republican and loyalist paramilitaries, the British security forces, and civil rights groups. The Troubles dated from the riots of 1968 through to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998.

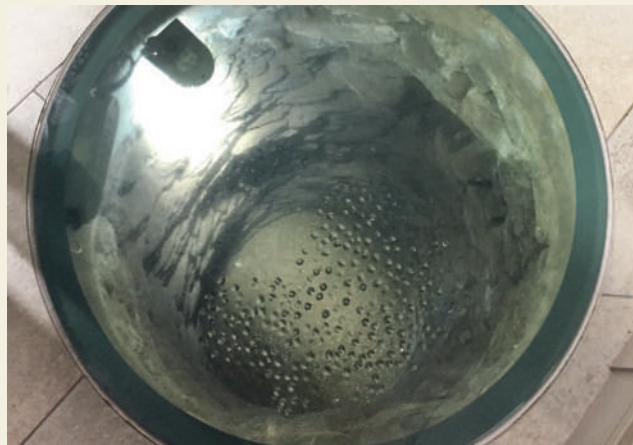
HERVEY LIBRARY



The Hervey library adjacent to the Northern Counties ballroom was the smoking room of the club and has been named after The Earl-Bishop Frederick Hervey.

FAMOUS VISITORS INCLUDE WINSTON CHURCHILL & W.B. YEATS

THE SIEGE WELL



Nicknamed during the Siege of Derry in 1689, it was recorded that the well provided fresh drinking water to the people of the City. The water then became undrinkable due to lead poisoning from the rain washing over the gun powder and cannon balls. It is thought to be one of the ancient wells of Ireland so it has never been dated.

ORIGINAL ENTRANCE LOBBY



The revolving door was installed in 1916. Following the partition of the island in 1921, Derry-Londonderry became a border city which caused civil unrest. Frosted doors and ground floor windows were introduced to ensure that the events within the club where never to be seen by the outside world.

THE WIG



The Wig lends its name from the neighbouring Court House as many of the club members were employed within the judicial system. The Wig Lounge was once a reading room but was converted to a billiards room as members were of the opinion that gentlemen shouldn't need to read, they would have been in the attendance of major events or they would have been at least informed.

NORTHERN COUNTIES BALLROOM



Aptly named to keep the memory of the Club alive, this grand room was the members private dining room. The newly renovated ballroom pays homage to the club's historic architecture while still maintaining a modern aesthetic.

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BISHOP'S GATE HOTEL DERRY



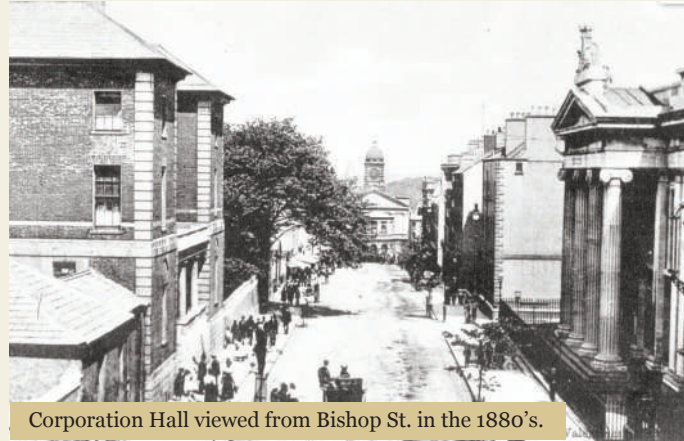
BISHOP'S GATE HOTEL
DERRY

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CORPORATION HALL & BISHOP'S PALACE

Corporation Hall viewed from Bishop St in the 1880's.

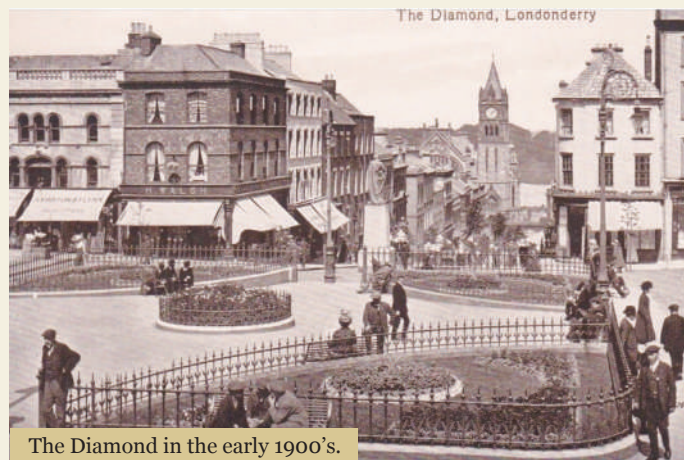
On the left the elegant Bishop's Palace originally built in the 1750's and remodeled by the famous Earl Bishop Hervey in the late 1700's. The building was the home from 1865-1895 of the famous Cecil Frances Alexander who wrote "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and the Christmas carol "Once in Royal David's City."



Corporation Hall viewed from Bishop St. in the 1880's.

THE DIAMOND

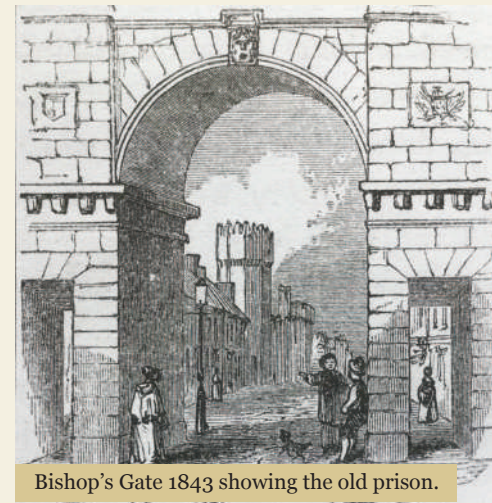
This small garden was here for about a decade between the destruction Corporation Hall in 1905 and the building of the war memorial in 1927. Today the War Memorial sits here in the centre of the Diamond and is dedicated to the citizens of the city who lost their lives while in military service during World War I and World War II.



The Diamond in the early 1900's.

BISHOP'S GATE

Bishop's Gate 1843 showing the old prison. The tower dates from 1791, the prison itself closed its doors in 1953 and was then demolished in 1971 to make way for the redevelopment of the Fountain Estate nearby. Over the centuries the jail has incarcerated many republicans, the most famous being Wolfe Tone, leader of the United Irishmen, and Eamon de Valera, later to be President of Ireland.



Bishop's Gate 1843 showing the old prison.

AUSTINS

Austins is the world's oldest independent department store. This image is dated between 1906 (Corporation Hall sat on the Diamond before this) and 1927 when the War Memorial was erected.



An image of the Diamond, Ferryquay Street and Austins.

Important Figures in this Building's History



EARL-BISHOP
FREDERICK HERVEY

The art-loving eccentric helped shape 18th Century Derry. Hervey's legacy to the Northwest, in physical terms, is apparent to this day. He spent hugely on Derry – much of it his own money. He built the first bridge across the Foyle, planted a magnificent forest at Ballykelly, restored St. Columb's Cathedral and constructed Downhill Manor and the Mussenden Temple.

He lived in the Bishop's Palace with his family until 1790. It was on the steps of the Palace that he made his last great appearance to the people of Derry when he was greeted by a huge civic reception.

Hervey left Derry in 1791 though remained as a much loved absentee bishop until his death in Italy in 1803.



ALFRED ARTHUR
FORMAN

Alfred was born at sea on 31st December 1865 and stayed on board until the age of 10.

In September of 1890, he was elected as an associate of the Royal Institute of Victorian Architects, he was 25 years old. He travelled extensively practicing in Australia, South Africa, USA before settling in Northern Ireland in 1898.

He designed the Methodist Church on Carlisle Road, the Northern Counties Hotel, 2 Butcher Street and remodelled Northern Counties Club in 1902. Other work in & around Derry included public decoration of the streets for a Royal Visit

Alfred left Derry in 1906 to work in Canada.