

# CITY OF DERRY



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# EARLY HISTORY

Derry is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in Ireland. The earliest historical references date to the 6th century when a monastery was founded there by St Columba or Colmcille, a famous saint from what is now County Donegal, but for thousands of years before that people had been living in the vicinity.



The town became strategically more significant during the Tudor conquest of Ireland and came under frequent attack. During O'Doherty's Rebellion in 1608 it was attacked by Sir Cahir O'Doherty, Irish chieftain of Inishowen, who burnt much of the town and killed the governor George Paulet. The soldier and statesman Sir Henry Docwra made vigorous efforts to develop the town, earning the reputation of being "the founder of Derry"; but he was accused of failing to prevent the O'Doherty attack, and returned to England.



# DERRY IN THE 18TH CENTURY



In 1704 an Act of Parliament stated that only Anglicans could hold office in Ireland. Presbyterians were excluded. Partly as a result of this measure, many Presbyterians emigrated from Derry to North America in the early 18th century. Despite this Derry grew larger in the 18th century and suburbs appeared outside the walls. Boom Hall was built in the 1770s at the point where the boom crossed the river during the siege.



A number of new buildings were erected in Derry in the 18th century. The Irish Society House was built in 1764. Long Tower Church was built in 1784-86. Bishopgate was rebuilt in 1789.

Until the end of the 18th century, there was only a ferry across the River Foyle. In 1789-91 a wooden bridge was built. This greatly boosted trade and industry in Derry. Meanwhile, The Derry Journal began in 1772.

# DERRY IN THE 19TH CENTURY

In the early 19th century large numbers of Catholics came to Derry from the countryside looking for work. The Courthouse was built in 1813. Derry workhouse opened in 1840 and the railway reached Derry in 1845.

Magee College was founded in 1865 to train men for the Presbyterian ministry. St Columb's College was founded in 1879. In 1863 another bridge, this one of steel, was erected across the Foyle. Carlisle Bridge, as it was called, was demolished in 1933.

St Augustines Church was built in 1872. St Eugene's Cathedral was built in 1873. Its spire was added in 1902. Derry Guildhall opened in 1890. It burned in 1908 and was rebuilt. It was bombed in 1972 then refurbished.

Meanwhile, in 1831 a man named William Scott began making shirts in Derry. From the 1850s the shirt-making trade in Derry boomed. By the 1870s shirt-making was the main industry in the town. There was also a shipbuilding industry in 19th century Derry. Meanwhile, the port of Derry prospered.

During the 19th century, many emigrants from Ireland to North America left from Derry. Today they are remembered by an 'emigrants' sculpture.



# DERRY IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Brooke Park opened to the public in 1901. A War Memorial was erected in Derry in 1927 and Our Lady of Lourdes Church was built in 1976. Craigavon Bridge was built in 1933 to replace Carlisle Bridge. Foyle Bridge was built in 1984. In 1932 Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly the Atlantic landed at Ballyarnett. From the mid-19th century, a shirt-making industry boomed in Derry. In 1997 United Technologies Automotive factory closed. This was a severe blow to the city.

During World War II Derry was a major naval base. There were also air bases around the city. Large numbers of American and Canadian servicemen were stationed in the city. From the late 1940s, a public housing estate was created at Creggan. In the 1960s the council demolished slums in Derry.

On October 5 1968 the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Movement attempted to hold a march in Derry. However, the Northern Irish government banned the march and when it went ahead it was broken up by the RUC in Duke Street. The Battle of Bogside occurred in August 1969. The tension between Catholics and Protestants had been building for some time and it eventually erupted into violence. On 12 August 1969, the annual Apprentice Boys march was routed past the Catholic Bogside area. As the Apprentice Boys marched past there were clashes between the RUC and Catholic civilians. There followed 3 days of rioting which ended when the British army was sent in.



# BLOODY SUNDAY: WHAT HAPPENED ON SUNDAY 30 JANUARY 1972?

Thirteen people were killed and 15 people wounded after members of the Army's Parachute Regiment opened fire on civil rights demonstrators in the Bogside - a predominantly Catholic part of Londonderry - on Sunday 30 January 1972.

The day became known as Bloody Sunday - one of the darkest days of the Northern Ireland Troubles. Victims' families waited 47 years to see if there would be prosecutions.

Northern Ireland's Public Prosecution Service (PPS) said there was enough evidence to prosecute one paratrooper - known only as Soldier F - for the murders of James Wray and William McKinney.



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## THE EVENTS LEADING TO BLOODY SUNDAY

About 15,000 people gathered in the Creggan area of Derry on the morning of 30 January 1972 to take part in a civil rights march.

FIVE months earlier, in August 1971 and against a backdrop of escalating violence and increased bombings in Northern Ireland, a new law was introduced giving the authorities the power to imprison people without trial - internment. The government had decided it was the only way it could restore order.

Thousands gathered in Derry on that January day for a rally organised by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association to protest at internment.

The Stormont government had banned such protests.

Troops were deployed to police the march.



# HOW THE DAY UNFOLDED

The march began shortly after 15:00 GMT and the intended destination was the city centre.

However, Army barricades blocked marchers.

The majority of demonstrators were instead directed towards Free Derry Corner in the Bogside.

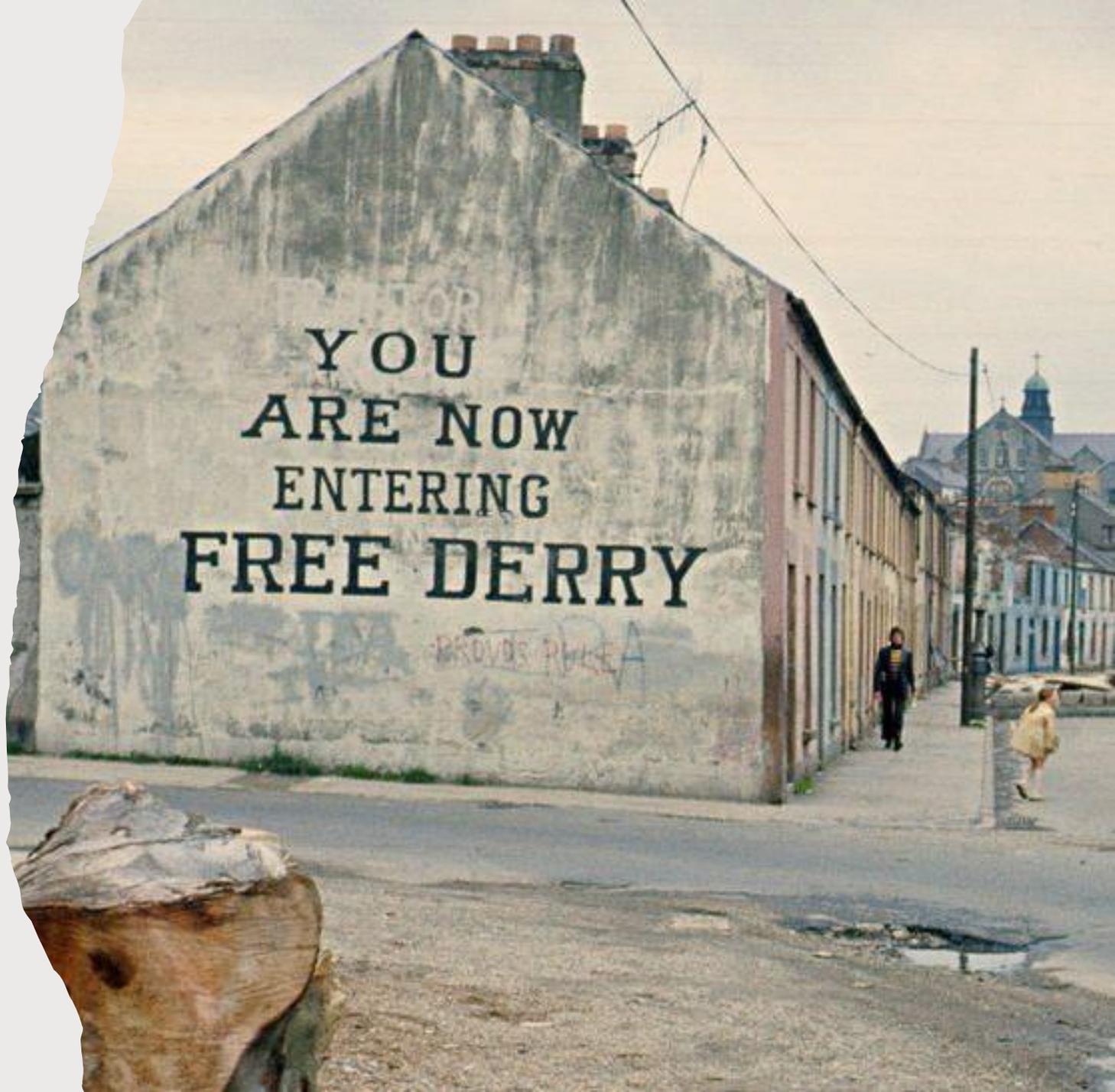
After prolonged skirmishes between groups of youths and the Army, soldiers from the Parachute Regiment moved in to make arrests.

Just before 16:00 GMT, stones were thrown and soldiers responded with rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannon. Two men were shot and wounded.

At 16:07 GMT, paratroopers moved to arrest as many marchers as possible.

At 16:10 GMT, soldiers began to open fire.

According to Army evidence, 21 soldiers fired their weapons, discharging 108 live rounds between them.



# WHAT WAS THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE?

The shootings led to widespread anger in Derry and further afield.

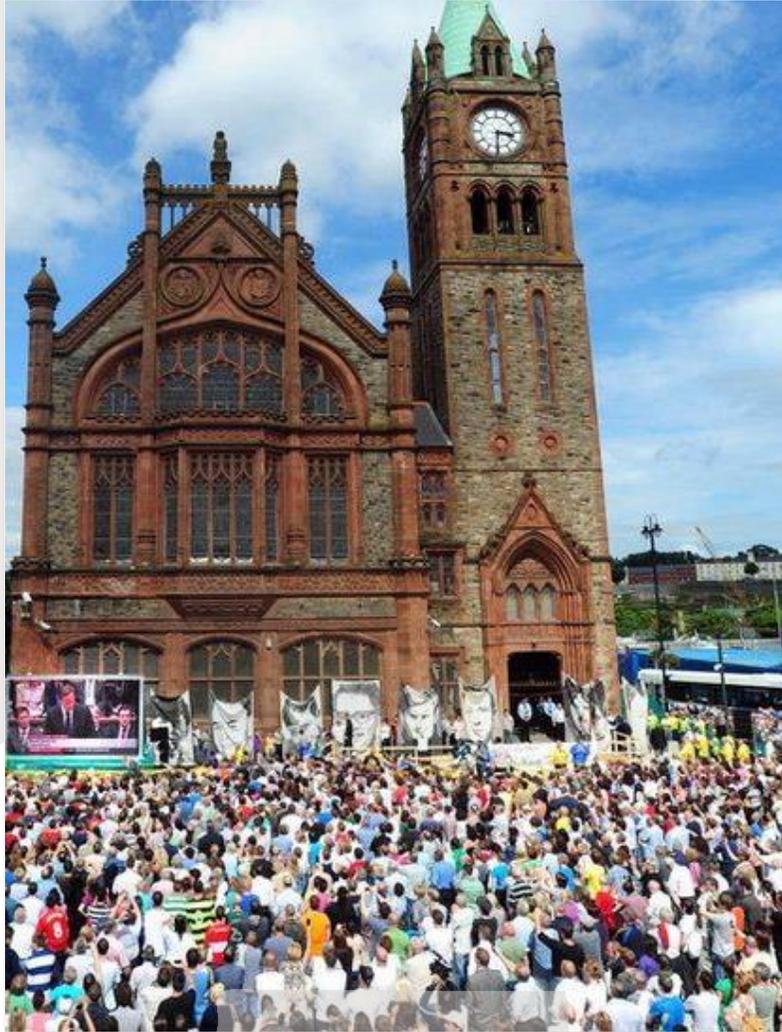
The British Embassy in Dublin was burned to the ground by an angry crowd.

The day after Bloody Sunday the government announced there would be an inquiry led by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery.

The Widgery Tribunal largely cleared the soldiers and British authorities of blame, although he described the soldiers' shooting as "bordering on the reckless".

It was derided as a whitewash by the victims' families, who spent years campaigning for a fresh public inquiry.





# THE SAVILLE INQUIRY

Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that a new inquiry would be held, headed by judge Lord Saville.

It was set up in 1998 and reported back in 2010, becoming the longest-running inquiry in British legal history and costing about £200m.

The inquiry found that none of the casualties were posing a threat or doing anything that would justify their shooting.

It said no warning was given to any civilians before the soldiers opened fire and that none of the soldiers fired in response to attacks by petrol bombers or stone throwers.

Saville found there was "some firing by republican paramilitaries" but that on balance the Army fired first.

Prime Minister David Cameron said the killings were "unjustified and unjustifiable".

# WHAT HAPPENED AFTER SAVILLE?

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) began a murder investigation after the Saville report was released.

It took a number of years to complete and detectives then submitted their files to the Public Prosecution Service towards the end of 2016.

Having weighed up 125,000 pages of material, prosecutors said on 14 March that they will prosecute Soldier F for the murders of James Wray and William McKinney.

He had also faced charges for the attempted murders of Patrick O'Donnell, Joseph Friel, Joe Mahon and Michael Quinn.

On 2 July 2021, it was announced Soldier F would not face trial following a decision by the Public Prosecution Service (PPS).

In a statement, the PPS said after "careful consideration" the decision had been taken due to another recent court ruling which found evidence being relied upon in the prosecution of Soldier A and Soldier C for the killing of Joe McCann was inadmissible.

This was due to the circumstances in which the evidence was obtained.



# DERRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

In 2001 Creggan Indigenous Enterprise Park opened. Millennium Forum opened in 2001. Creggan Country Park opened in 2003. Today the population of Derry is 85,016.





## EVENTS WORTH ATTENDING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN DERRY

**Derry Halloween** - upwards of 30,000 revellers dressed in fancy dress costumes throng the streets and bars til the early hours. It's the biggest festival of its kind in Ireland attracting visitors from as far as Australia, Japan and the USA. Almost everyone you meet on Halloween night will be dressed up so wearing a costume is recommended.

**Foyle Maritime Festival** – ten days of live entertainment, food and nautical fun as Derry welcomes home its Round the World Clipper Race yachts.



**Allegri** - this year festival includes Youth Music Workshops, an online youth concert, community concerts, adult singing workshops and St Colmcille celebrations amongst a host of other events. Music is the heartbeat of Londonderry region. It plays a vital role in everything from celebration and reconciliation, civic pride, inclusion and regeneration. Allegri's ethos is that every voice matters. The Every Voice Festival celebrates this and the transformative power of singing together.



**COLMCILLE**  
**1500** 521 - 2021  
.....  
**ST. COLMCILLE**  
**FEAST DAY**  
**09.06.21**

**Colmcille 1500** - 1500 years ago, one of Ireland's most famous sons was born in Gartan, Co. Donegal. With strong roots in the North West of Ireland, Colmcille (or St. Columba) went on to blaze a trail of cultural and social change around the world. He became one of Ireland's three patron saints, the patron saint of Derry and his influence extends to this day. Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council have come together, with support from the North West Development Fund, to commemorate Colmcille's remarkable life and legacy with a series of events and activities throughout the coming year.



# TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN DERRY

# CITY WALLS

Derry is the only remaining completely intact walled city in Ireland and one of the finest examples of a walled city in Europe. The Walls were built during the period 1613-1618 by "the honourable the Irish Society" as defences for early 17th century settlers from England and Scotland. They provide a unique promenade to view the layout of the original town which still preserves its Renaissance style street plan. The four original gates to the Walled City are Bishop's Gate, Ferryquay Gate, Butcher Gate and Shipquay Gate to which three further gates were added later, Magazine Gate, Castle Gate and New Gate, making seven gates in total. Historic buildings within the walls include the 1633 Gothic cathedral of St Columb, the Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall and the courthouse.





## **BOGSIDE**

The Bogside Murals were first started in 1993 by the Bogside Artists, a group of 3 artists Tom and William Kelly, and Kevin Hasson. They represent the people of the Bogside and their history of seeking justice and democratic rights. There are now a total of twelve large scale murals on the walls in Rossville street.

# MUSEUM OF FREE DERRY



The Museum of Free Derry tells the story of how a largely working class community rose up against the years of oppression it had endured. The museum and archive has become an integral part of Ireland's radical and civil rights heritage.

The museum also tells the story of Bloody Sunday, the day when the British Army committed mass murder on the streets of the Bogside. It tells the story of how the people of Derry, led by the families of the victims, overcame the injustice and wrote a new chapter in the history of civil rights, which has become a source of international inspiration.

# GUILDHALL

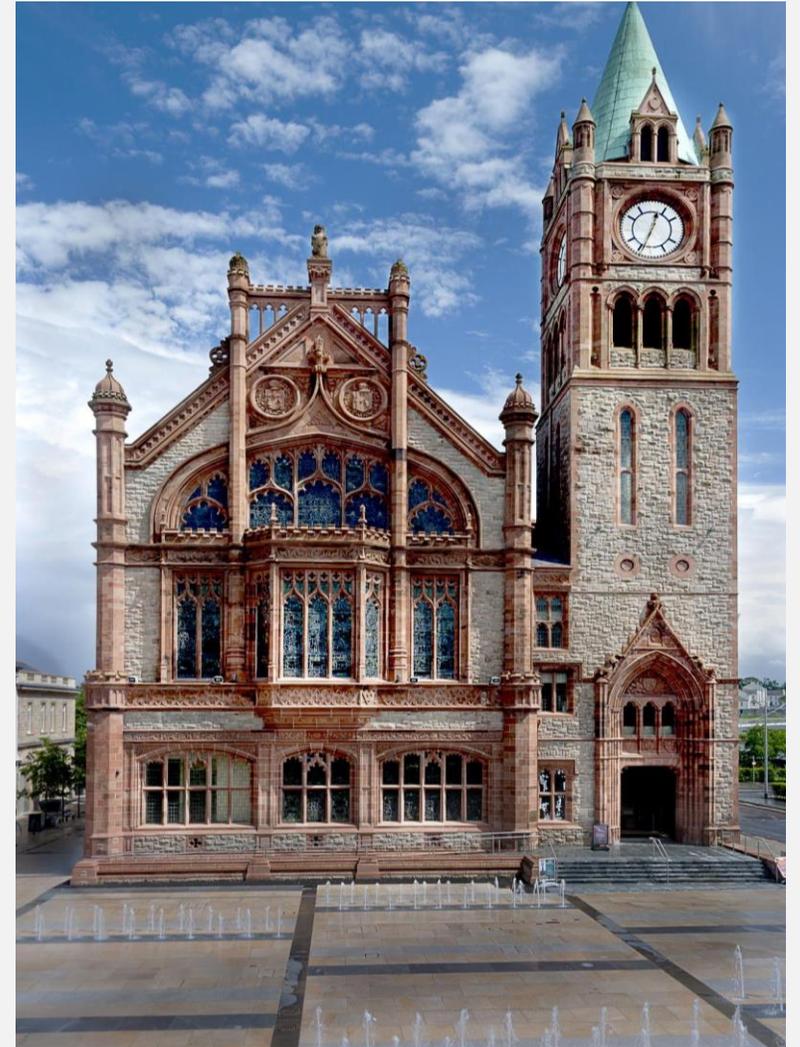
The Guildhall, originally called the Town Hall, was completed in 1890. Designed by Leeds architect, William Hill, who was inspired to improve upon the almost identical Bolton Town Hall that he had designed in 1873.

On 21st April 1926 it was announced that Portsmouth was to be raised to the status of a city and the Town Hall was renamed the Guildhall.

Unfortunately, Hill's Guildhall was to last not even a century as on 10th January 1941 a series of WWII incendiary bombs rained down onto the building and city, completely destroying the building's interior and roof, leaving only the outer walls and tower, which suffered enormous fire damage.

The spirit of Portsmouth that survived the Blitz also ensured the survival of the Guildhall which was rebuilt after the war and re-opened by HM The Queen on 8th June 1959, standing as a memorial to the spirit and determination of Portsmouth and her people ever since.

Today the Guildhall is a leading concert and conference venue and home to some of Portsmouth's most historic treasures including the city's Civic Plate and the Council Chamber.





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