

FEATURE



has been given new life and a bright future thanks to refurbishment. [07-06-13 SML 5]

In the late 1960s, Derry's doughtiest heritage campaigner, architect Joe Tracey, set about recording what remained. Passionate about Derry's old buildings, he founded the Foyle Civic Trust [FCT] in 1989. For a quarter century, FCT presented the case for heritage in the north west – even when none listened.

In 1999, Heritage Lottery Fund [HLF] launched the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) – a UK-wide repair grant scheme available to owners of selected old buildings in economically deprived areas.

Seizing the moment, FCT's Chair Mary McLaughlin, and City Centre Initiative's first Chief Executive, Clíodhna Mulhern, fostered buy-in from key statutory bodies to form the Walled City Partnership [WCP]. Established in June 2002, this enduring marriage between Foyle

Civic Trust, Derry City Council and City Centre Initiative is supported by Department for Social Development, Planning NI and Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The WCP application to HLF for a £1 million THI building repair scheme – targeting clusters of old buildings in Waterloo Street, Magazine Street, Shipquay Street and Castle Street – received permission to start in February 2003.

A decade on, Walled City Partnership delivers Northern Ireland's largest, most successful THI. Led from the outset by, energetic and committed Chair, Mary McLaughlin, the WCP team has overseen the rescue and repair of 25 old buildings and initiated Northern Ireland's first dedicated THI education programme.

Next week... Part Two: 'A Great Wee Quirky Street'.



Clockwise from top right: July 1972... A badly bomb damaged Ulster Bank at Waterloo Place falls victim to the wrecking ball. The fine old building was just one of many city centre properties demolished during the 'Troubles'. The facade of the former Northern Counties Hotel can be seen in the background. [07-06-13 SML 1]; Numbers 4-6 Shipquay Street with their detailed eaves and repaired and repainted timber sliding sash windows. [07-06-13 SML 3]; The original carved stone facade of 20 Shipquay Street. [07-06-13 SML 4]; A revitalised Magazine Street adds to the vibrancy of a new-look city centre. [07-06-13 SML 6]