

## THE WORLD AROUND US — LOCAL HISTORY · P5–P7

# Doire / Derry / Londonderry

P5–P7

## The story of Derry/Londonderry

### 1 Two names

Doire (Irish: 'oak grove' or 'oak wood') — the original Irish name. Derry — the English form. Londonderry — added in 1613 when London merchants funded the city's plantation. Both 'Derry' and 'Londonderry' are used today; the choice often reflects political and cultural identity.

### 2 Ancient origins

Founded by St Colmcille (St Columba) around 546 CE as a monastery in an oak grove. One of Ireland's most important early Christian sites for centuries.

### 3 The walls (1613-1618)

Built by London merchant guilds during the Plantation of Ulster. One of the best-preserved walled cities in Europe — the walls remain intact today. You can walk all the way around them.

### 4 The Siege of Derry (1689)

Protestant 'Apprentice Boys' shut the gates against the army of King James II (Catholic). The 105-day siege saw great hardship — thousands starved before relief arrived. A central event in unionist tradition; commemorated annually.

### 5 Bloody Sunday (30 January 1972)

British soldiers shot 26 unarmed civil rights protesters in the Bogside, killing 14. A traumatic event in the Troubles. The Saville Inquiry (2010) found the shootings were 'unjustified and unjustifiable'.



6

**UK City of Culture 2013**

Derry/Londonderry was the first UK City of Culture. Brought significant investment and tourism. The Peace Bridge (2011) symbolically connected the historically Catholic and Protestant sides of the river.

7

**The city today**

Vibrant, growing, increasingly visited by tourists. Walls walks, Free Derry Museum, the Tower Museum, and the Peace Bridge are major attractions. A symbol of the changing North.

