

Interview with Granda, Granny and my Dad about Enniskillen

My grandpa is 90 years of age so I asked him firstly what was Enniskillen when he was a boy. The first thing he said was that Enniskillen would have seemed like a million miles unlike nowadays where we have cars and can head to Enniskillen twice a day.

Grandpa said one of the big differences was the railway station it was first built in 1854 but closed in 1957. The railway in 1854 brought a great boost to the local economy. He there was such excitement to get to Enniskillen or Bundoran during the summer on the train. Enniskillen settlement grew because of the railway station. I've only been on a train a few times it would be nice to still have a railway station in Enniskillen.



Grandpa told me that I had to think that Enniskillen is an island town and that the West Bridge, was a very important part of the growth of Enniskillen. It was originally a wooden structure with a drawbridge was built in the early 17th century. In 1698, it was replaced by a stone bridge with 8 arches, a tall tower and guardhouse. In 1775 a new bridge was built with 3 arches. By 1825, the bridge had become too narrow for the heavy traffic crossing and a new bridge with a central pier was built between 1885 and 1892 during drainage works on Lough Erne. In the 1980's, as part of the bypass, a new bridge was built for outward-bound traffic.

Grandpa told me a few things then about different places in Enniskillen and how they had changed now as the world has changed.

Gaol Square - where once there stood a gaol and gallows (last public hanging took place in 1849). This is now where the tech is but it is also moving and I wonder what will be there next.

The Buttermarket was first opened for the buying and selling of local farm produce - particularly butter, Fermanagh's main export in the 19th century. The Buttermarket was restored and is now used by local crafts people and has an attractive layout especially on a sunny day.

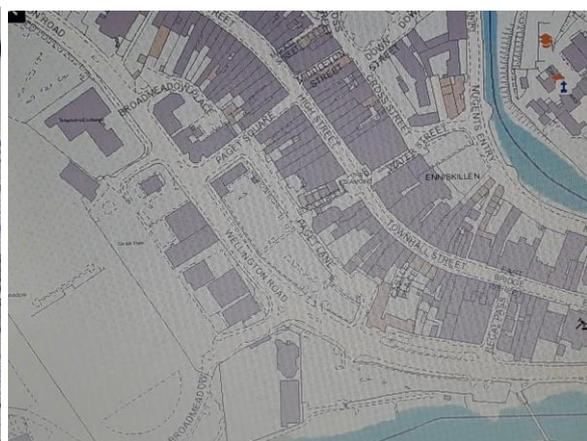


My dad showed me maps about places in Enniskillen which were originally water it is quite hard to believe when you originally went down Paget lane you were at the waters edge and would have been looking at a quay and livestock. Today there is a car park, roads, Shops football pitches and the Lakeland forum. I have added the maps below of then and now where you can see so much water.



Old Map

New Map





New Town Layout

Dad also Told me that lots of things have changed since he was a boy. He told me that there ae hundreds of new houses and lots of new housing estates in the town. When he was a boy there was no Asda, Tesco, Dunnes, Lidl, Curry's it was a very different place. There was a mart on every Thursday and it was a great day to get the town for the mart. He said he didn't go to school in Enniskillen he went to Ballinamallard and then Kesh but all these schools have now closed and most people go to Enniskillen for Grammar or secondary school.

Granda drove buses and then lorries so he travelled lots he loved his driving days and he dive a lorry till he 78 just before I was born. Granda said there were very busy times and he drew lorries of stones to sites as the town grew. There were lots of factories and many of their friends and families work in Unipork and Desmonds a clothes making factory. Granny said this is another big change these sites of old factories are now used to build more houses and industrial estates.

Granda, Granny and Daddy have said that Enniskillen has grown and grown it is a beautiful town it is so well kept. There are lots of new shops and shopping centres all through the town. They now see it as a tourist and shopping town with the lakes and lovely hotels. Granda says it stated with the river running around the town and that river is still being used today.



Darling Street



Darling Street Nowadays

By Sarah Speer 8E