

## NARKETS BRADE

The town charter of 1613 gave Coleraine the right to hold markets – these were held in and around the Diamond.

A clerk of the market was appointed to look after all matters concerning the market, and they paid for this privilege. In 1679 Robert Townes paid £37 10s 6d when he became clerk. Coleraine was to hold a market on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and a nine-day fair once a year. In 1678 the mayor decided to put into effect a former street cleaning act which meant that anyone living on Market Street who did not clean outside their house on a Saturday could be fined 12 pence.

Goods came and went from the port connected with Britain and Europe. Some of those living in the area in the 17th century were well-connected and well-travelled. They wanted the latest fashions and luxury goods available in London and elsewhere.

The right to hold markets and tax goods sustained the local economy and Coleraine town as the regional centre.

*Coloured silk lace, black Spanish* silk, silk and silver butts, Flanders serge, crimson calico, cambric, striped canvas, silver buttons, French wine, Scotch aquavite, tobacco, sugar, prunes, currents, almonds, nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon, honey, white candy, drinking glasses, brass kettles, iron pots, hats, fine hats, stockings, playing cards...'

Imports into Coleraine, The Port Books of Coleraine, 1613.

Trade in the town developed in the 19th century with the Gribbon Linen factory and Coleraine whiskey. Today the Causeway Speciality Market brings the market back into the Diamond once a month.



▲ Linen seal used in the Gribbon Linen factory. The Mill made the finest of Irish linen.



Coleraine whisky was the drink of choice in the House of Commons in London.

Pynnar's map from 1611 shows the beast market.







