

A little Piece of history...

Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa was first known as Tigh-An-Rudha (house at the promontory) and was built by renowned architect George Devey in 1863 as the living space and office for the Sheriff Substitute of Argyll, by commission of the 5th Duke of Argyll.

The first Sheriff Substitute to live here was David Cunningham Grahame, the father of Kenneth Grahame – author of 'Wind in the Willows'. The house was used in this capacity until 1910, when the location for the Sheriff Substitute of Argyll was moved.

Tigh-An-Rudha, still owned by the Duke of Argyll, was then rented out to various people, including in 1915 to the recently widowed daughter of the 8th Duke of Argyll.

In 1939 the house was leased to Alexander Macbride who intended to use it as a boarding house, unfortunately events were afoot in Nazi Germany and the War Department requisitioned the building for combined operation training. In 1940 Tigh-An-Rudha was now known as Admiralty House and indeed the war room still exists to this day! Amongst the many dignitaries to visit, whilst overseeing the many armed forces here training for D Day were:

H.M King George VI (1941), RT. Hon. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister (1941), General De Gaulle, C in C, French Forces (1941), H.M King Haakon of Norway (1943), H.R.H Prince Olaf of Norway (1943), Admiral Lord Keyes, Head of Combined Operations, Viscount Louis Mountbatten of Burma, Head of Combined Operations (replacing Lord Keyes), General Eisenhower, Mr Winant, U.S. Ambassador, General MacNaughton, C in C, Canadian Forces, Mr A.V. Alexander, 1st Lord of the Admiralty, General Sirkoski, C in C, Polish forces.

When hostilities ceased in 1945 the house was handed back to Mr Macbride who then had the genius idea to run it as a hotel, until he retired in 1968. A Mr Donald Clark then purchased the property and changed its name to Loch Fyne, which he ran in conjunction with the George Hotel which he also owned, people slept at Loch Fyne – then popped over to George Hotel to be fed!

The first of the major improvement came in 1983, when Mr and Mrs Liddell bought the property and added kitchens, heating, private bathrooms and had the whole building rewired, the end result being 21 en-suite bedrooms.

In 1998 the Liddell's retired and sold the property to the Crerar Hotel Group, who in 2000 made further improvements by adding the swimming pool and the large bedroom wing.