

Conservation Grants Scheme

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The Irish Georgian Society is delighted to announce the third successful year of the Conservation Grants Scheme, which helps owners of historic structures to fund necessary works.

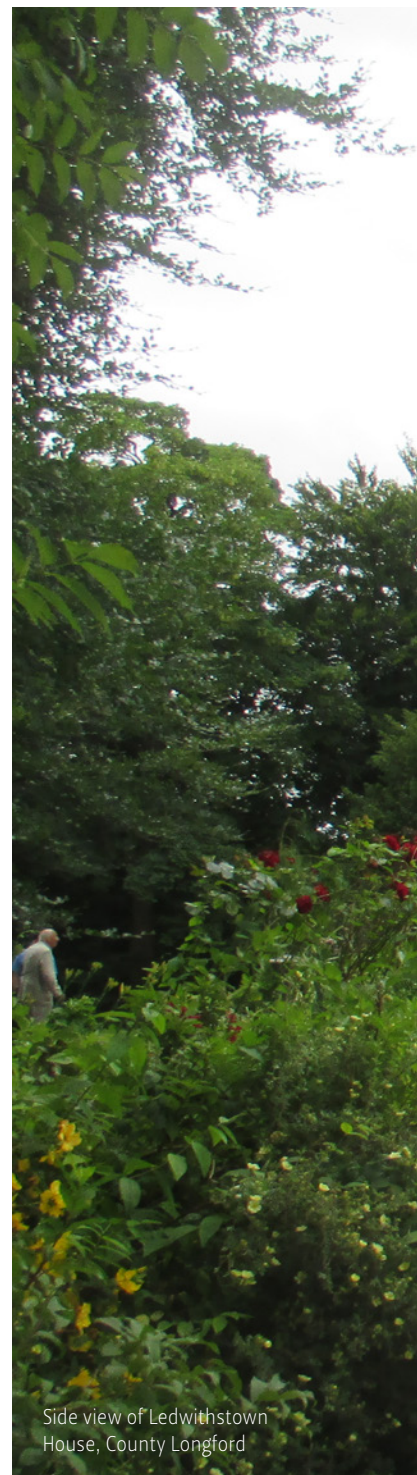
The London Chapter has made this scheme possible through funds raised from its activities and members' generous bequests. Operating over a four-year period, annual funding will be available until 2017.

Along with provision of several small grants, a larger core grant can be offered each year to an individual project. The distribution of the limited funding was very challenging this year as it was clear that numerous projects would really benefit from the Society's help. The London Chapter has, therefore, decided this year to spread the funding more equally between fourteen successful applicants and to also go beyond the normal limit of €50,000 by generously offering €57,500.

For a variety of reasons, assistance is required at a number of Georgian houses. At Kildrought House, Co. Kildare, the original carriage entrance to this early-18th-century house is subject to subsidence and necessary underpinning and restoration is required. The striking decorative chimneystacks of Stradbally Hall, Co. Laois, are in need of repair and reinstatement. This late-18th-century house was substantially renovated in c.1868 in the Italianate style by the English architect, Charles Lanyon (1813-1889).

The maintenance and repair of historic buildings is vital to prevent the decay

of historic fabric through water ingress and the onset of damp, both of which can be disastrous in old buildings. Two Georgian houses face this problem: the late-Georgian Ballynager House in Co. Galway, designed by Richard Morrison (1767-1849); and Ledwithstown House, Co. Longford, a mid-18th-century house attributed to the architect Richard Castle (1690-1751). At Ledwithstown a condition report is required to help guide the owners with necessary roof repairs to prevent further water penetration. Other structures, ranging from castles to small chapels, can also be affected by water-ingress problems and necessary roof repairs are required for the following projects. Birr Castle is a large c. 1170 castle in Co. Offaly that is the home of the seventh Earl of Rosse, while Scots Church, Co. Carlow, was designed in 1818 by Thomas Alfred Cobden (1794-1842). Boyle Courthouse, Co. Roscommon, was constructed in c. 1830 and the proposed new use for this civic building is an exhibition hall for model railways. The Maunsell Chapel, Kildare, is a c. 1820 chapel that includes medieval fabric from the previous monastery on the site. The chapel is in association with a historic graveyard and a local community group, The Tea Lane Graveyard Committee, cares for the whole site.



Side view of Ledwithstown House, County Longford



01 Maunsell Chapel, Tea Lane Graveyard, Celbridge, County Kildare **02** Exterior of Albert's House, Dungarvan, County Waterford **03** Dublin Civic Trust's new offices at 18 Ormond Quay, Dublin 2

An organisation we are pleased to support is The Royal Society of Antiquaries Ireland. In their headquarters at 63 Merrion Square, Dublin, cracks to the chimneybreast have appeared in the front room of the principal floor in this late-18th-century terraced house. We are also delighted to support the independent charitable organisation, the Dublin Civic Trust, which works to recognise and protect Dublin's architectural heritage. They have recently purchased two adjoining townhouses in the city centre and the works involve the reinstatement of the currently blocked and missing sash windows to the rear of the mid-19th-century house, 18 Upper Ormond Quay.

We are also supporting window-repair works in two other buildings: the late-Georgian Ross House, Co. Clare, which retains original sash windows and also the 1821 St Michael's Church, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath, built by the Pollard family who founded the original settlement, where original Gothic-style windows remain.

Last year, Collon Parish Church, Co. Louth, received a core grant for a detailed inspection of the roof space above the striking, fan-vaulted ceiling. This year, we are helping with the reinstatement of the original pierced-stone parapet to the south gable of this c. 1815 building.

Our funding also supports the restoration of a historic shopfront connected with Albert's House, Waterford. This c. 1825 building functioned as bakery for nearly 120 years until it was tragically damaged by fire.

As you can see, the wide range of buildings benefitting from this year's grants scheme includes castles, residential buildings, civic structures and churches. There are a variety of issues that face owners of historic buildings, often resulting in financial pressures, and this scheme helps to fund essential works for the continued protection of these historic assets. We are very much looking forward to receiving applications in 2017 for the final year of the current scheme.

