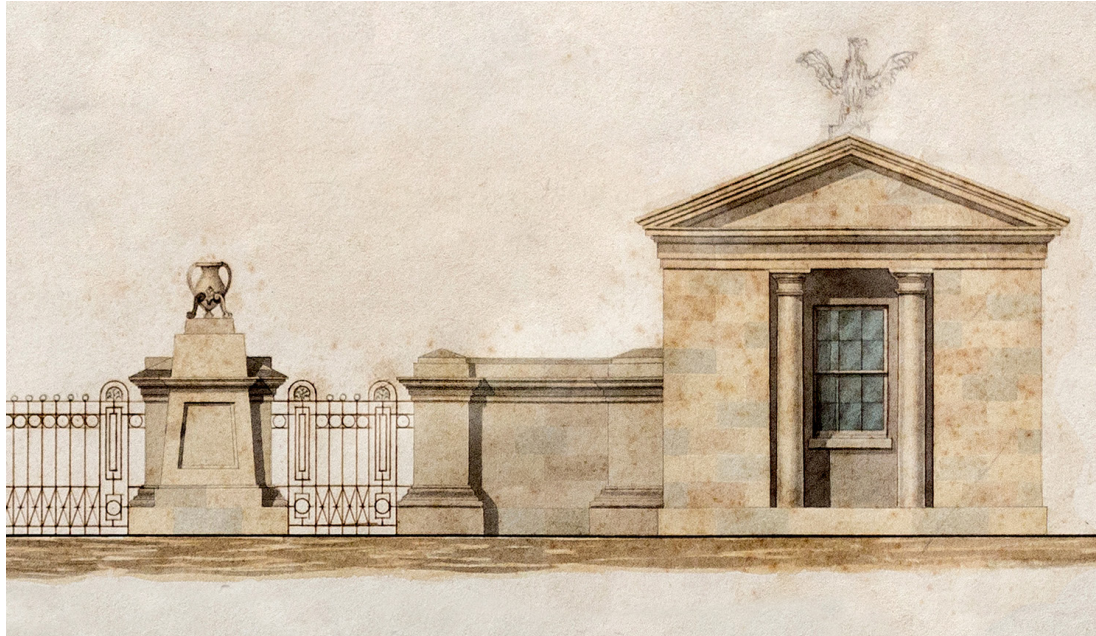


IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 December 2017



The vision of the Irish Georgian Society is to conserve, protect and foster interest in Ireland's architectural heritage and decorative arts.

The Society will pursue its vision, either working on its own or in partnership with others, through the provision of education and information, including publications, lectures, conferences, tours and other learning programmes. As well as campaigning for protection and conservation, and undertaking and supporting initiatives for the decorative arts and historic structures and places, including gardens and landscapes.

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The main activities of the organisation are carried out by the Irish Georgian Foundation which is a recognised charity (no. CHY 6372) in Ireland for tax purposes. The 'Irish Georgian Society' is the operating name of the Foundation.

The Irish Georgian Society is an unincorporated membership body which convenes an Annual Meeting each year. The Society has no financial activity. Members' subscriptions are recorded in the accounts of the Foundation.

In November 2014, the Irish Georgian Foundation adopted policies and procedures in furtherance of its aims to ensure that the Foundation operates in accordance with best practice for the Community Voluntary and Charitable sector in Ireland and in accordance with appropriate legislation.

1. DIRECTORS, IRISH GEORGIAN FOUNDATION, 2017

Michael Alen-Buckley (appointed Sept. 2017)

Co-founder in 1999 and Executive Chairman off RAB Capital plc.Chairman of the Blackwater Valley Opera Board and Founding Partner/Governor of the ARK Brunel Academy.

Victoria Browne

Head of Collections & Museum Standards, Irish Heritage Trust; board member Castletown Foundation.

Donough Cahill (Executive Director)

Oversees the strategic and day-to-day operations of the IGS and works with the Irish Georgian Foundation's Committee of Management, its standing committees and working groups and with the Society's North America and UK based membership.

Dr David Fleming (retired Sept. 2017)

Historian and author; lecturer, Department of History, University of Limerick; director, Hunt Museums' Trust; secretary, Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society.

Rose Mary Craig

Heritage tourism consultant and formerly with Córas Tráchtála, the Irish export board.

Beth Dater

Managing Director of Angelo, Gordon & Co. and President of Irish Georgian Society Inc.

Amy Hastings

Qualified planner and barrister; partner at ARC Consultants.

Camilla McAleese

Former Under Treasurer of the Honorable Society of King's Inns and former director of the Irish Heritage Trust.

Dr Tom McCarthy (appointed Sept. 2017)

Managing Director, McCarthy Developments (Cork) Ltd., and co-owner of the McCarthy Group; former board member of Irish Heritage Trust. (Joined Board in September 2017).

Johnnie McCoy

Barrister-at-Law, Mediator, Arbitrator and Adjudicator at Law Library.

Pat Murray

Buildings management consultant.

Finola O'Kane-Crimmins MRAI

Professor in Architecture at University College Dublin. Editor of Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies.

Glascott Symes

Retired Deputy Headmaster of The King's Hospital, Dublin.

Dermot Scott

Retired Head of the European Parliament Office in London.

Charles Sweeney (Treasurer)

Chartered accountant, and retired Director with EY Financial Services Group.

Michael Wall (Chairman)

Barrister specialising in construction; former board member An Bord Pleanála (1999-2006).

Primrose Wilson, CBE (retired Sept. 2017)

President, Ulster Architectural Heritage Society; chair, Follies Trust; member of the management committee, Armagh Observatory and Planetarium; trustee, Ulster Historic Churches Trust.

2. COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS & STAFF, 2017

2.1 COMMITTEES

Architectural Conservation and Planning

Reviews, considers, implements and promotes the Society's architectural conservation and planning policies.

Members: Mary Bryan, Donough Cahill (ex officio), David Johnson, Sunni Goodson, Amy Hastings (chair), Emmeline Henderson (ex officio), Frank Keohane, Dr John Olley, Michael Wall, and Primrose Wilson.

City Assembly House

Oversees the management, furnishing and decorating of the City Assembly House

Members: Victoria Browne, Donough Cahill (ex officio) Jerry Healy, Seamus Hogan (ex officio), William Laffan, James Paul McDonnell (chair), Pat Murray, Michael Wall.

Editorial Board of *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*

Advises the editor of the Irish Georgian Society's Journal on its quality, standards and publication.

Members: Professor Christine Casey, Nicola Figgis, Dr Alison Fitzgerald, Ruth Kenny, William Laffan (chair), David Griffin, Livia Hurley, Anna Moran, Dr Edward McParland, Kevin Mulligan and Brendan Rooney.

Editor: Professor Finola O'Kane Crimmins

Finance

Administers the financial affairs of the Foundation; proposes budget and ensures compliance with audit, filing and reporting requirements.

Members: Donough Cahill (ex officio), Rose Mary Craig, Donall Curtin, Dr David Fleming, Olivia Hurley (ex officio), Eugene McCarthy, Brian Redmond (chair), Charlie Sweeney, and Michael Wall.

Governance

Reviews, considers and proposes changes to the governing instruments, structure and operation of the Irish Georgian Foundation.

Members: Mary Bryan, Donough Cahill (ex officio), Dr Ruth Casey, Brian Redmond (chair), Dr David Fleming, Eugene McCarthy, and Johnnie McCoy.

Membership and Events

Develops and implements the Society's events programme and membership activities.

Members: Victoria Browne, Rose Mary Craig (chair), Johnnie McCoy, Roisin Lambe (ex officio), Mary McGaver, Pat Murray, Karin O'Flanagan, and Glascott Symes.

2.2 WORKING GROUPS

City Assembly House

Liaises and monitors the conservation and restoration of the City Assembly House, South William Street.

Members: Mary Bryan, Donough Cahill (ex officio), David Griffin, Jerry Healy (chair), James Paul McDonnell, Pat Murray, Karin O'Flanagan, Charlie Sweeney, and Michael Wall.

Membership Development

Considers ways to increase and sustain members.

Members: Camilla McAleese (chair) and Róisín Lambe

IGS Review

Undertakes the publication of the Society's bi-annual newsletter and liaises with authors, editors, advertisers and printers.

Members: Donough Cahill, Rose Mary Craig, Zoë Coleman and Letitia Pollard (editor)

2.3 STAFF

Employed by the Foundation in 2017:

Executive Director	Donough Cahill
Conservation Research Manager and Deputy Director	Emmeline Henderson
Membership and Events Administrator	Róisín Lambe
Accounts Administrator	Mary Reade, Olivia Hurley
Development Administrator	Zoë Coleman
City Assembly House Administrator	Seamus Hogan
Bookshop	Ally McVitty

The following interns supported the work of the Society in 2017:

Nicola O'Reilly (UCD)
Sinead Scullion (UCD)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The restoration of the City Assembly House commenced in 2017 and was made possible through the successful completion of a fundraising campaign in Ireland, the UK and the USA. The revitalisation of this important 18th Century building, which had lain empty for so long, included the great octagonal Exhibition Room which has been named after the never-to-be-forgotten Desmond, Knight of Glin, who did so much for the Irish Georgian Society in his many years as its Chairman and President.

To celebrate the building's original incarnation as the first public art gallery in Britain and Ireland, in 2017 the IGS further developed its plans to host a world class Exhibition of 18th century Irish art in the summer of 2018.

In 2017 the London Chapter once again provided under the Small Grants Scheme funding for churches, historic houses and an architectural folly. Generous donations were also received from our American members leading, most notably, to the restoration of the garden temple at Beaulieu, Co. Louth. The consequence of such funding by the Society is most important in terms both of financial impact and professional credibility.

Whilst securing government funding for conservation is always challenging, it is vital that current supports remain in place and, where possible, are improved upon. In 2017 the Society submitted observations on a government consultation paper on Section 482 tax relief for historic buildings. We emphasised the importance of the scheme not just in supporting conservation projects but also in providing access to historic buildings, providing tourist destinations, and supporting conservation craftsmen. In 2016 I drew attention to the appalling disaster that befell Vernon Mount in Cork. It is symptomatic of the times we live in that such an example of wanton neglect and vandalism has subsequently received little or no follow-up from Government.

It is hoped that another once great house may be brought back from the brink. Kilmacurragh in Co. Wicklow, the former home of the Acton family fell into severe decline in the latter part of the 20th Century, though the gardens have been restored to their former magnificence by the OPW and the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland under the guidance of head gardener Seamus O'Brien. Sadly the dilapidated remains of the once-beautiful Queen Anne house have continued to deteriorate, creating a ghastly eye-sore at the heart of the gardens. We have heard that there may be a plan to consolidate and re-roof the building. What a tremendous fillip to the whole cause of built heritage in Ireland that would be!

But it is not all doom and gloom. In 2017 the Hughes family acquired Westport House in Co Mayo and were advancing their thinking as to the restoration of the estate, house and gardens. How important it is to keep together demesne, buildings and contents. Equally, it was such good news to learn that the FitzGerald family resolved to remain at Glin Castle. Also that Mount Congreve was transferred from its family trust to Waterford City and County Council where chief executive Michael Walsh has such a fine record in preserving heritage buildings in Waterford itself.

I would like to give special thanks to Dr David Fleming who completed a four-year term as Chair of the Irish Georgian Foundation in 2017. He did trojan work during what has been a tremendously exciting time and we are all most grateful for his commitment. He will be missed by all those who worked with him in Ireland, England and the US, but I'm sure he will remain a close friend of the Society. David's successor who has been guiding the Society since then is Michael Wall. Michael has been a member of the IGF board since 2016 and of the City Assembly House Working Group since 2015. He is a practising barrister, arbitrator and mediator specialising in the areas of planning, environmental and construction law and sits on the boards of Wide Open Opera, the Abbey Theatre and of Simpson's Hospital, Dublin. It has been a great pleasure to have been working with him over the last 12 months and I look forward to continuing our work together in the coming years.

Sir David Davies

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

While I have the pleasant task to report on the activities of the Irish Georgian Foundation over the course of 2017 I must first acknowledge the bounteous work and leadership of my predecessor Dr David Fleming. I am honoured to have been elected Chairman, taking up office in October 2017, and to continue the advancement of all our activities from the solid position established during David's tenure.

The year was one of great milestones both joyful and sad. In particular, we remember the passing of Mary Bryan, who had served as chair of the Irish Georgian Foundation and previously as Executive Director, and who had long been a stalwart of the Society. May 2017 saw the long awaited commencement of the second phase of works at the City Assembly House where Mary's tremendous energy and foresight has become manifest and, we hope, will be cherished in her memory.



In September I had the honour as Chairman-elect to preside at the announcement of the 2017 IGS Small Grants Scheme awards at the Maunsell Chapel in Celbridge, in very good company including some London trustees, and the following day to spend a wonderful afternoon with the Society's Benefactors and Patrons at Luggala the magical home of the Hon Dr Garech Browne a much missed supporter of all our endeavours. In October I had the honour of presenting the 2017 IGS Conservation Awards. Later in the month the Society's president Sir Davis Davies and I had great pleasure in experiencing the warm and genuine welcome of Beth Dater, the Board of Irish Georgian Society Incorporated and our supporters in the United States at Gala events in New York and Chicago. Like my predecessor I would like to attest to the significance and importance of the support and generosity emanating from the United States in furtherance of our works and activities.

I would also like to acknowledge the generosity and hospitality of Sir David in hosting the plenary meeting of committees and chapter heads at Abbey Leix at the beginning of November. This evolving annual event continues to provide a truly worthwhile opportunity for fruitful exchange and reporting on the wide-ranging activities of the Society and the challenges we face in protecting Ireland's built heritage and endangered landscapes. At the end of November I attended a very jovial IGS London Chapter pre-Christmas dinner at the Royal Automobile Club and became further acquainted with UK trustees and supporters. While legacies left by UK members continued to allow us maintain the Small Grants Scheme, on-going funding for this important financial support for buildings in urgent need of help remains a concern for the future.

Throughout 2017, many exciting and interesting events took place commencing with a successful Winter Spring Lecture Series followed by very well attended seminars on Conserving your Dublin Period House in partnership with Dublin City Council. In November, in commemoration of 250 years of Westport, a IGS Study Day was held at Westport House in partnership with Mayo County Council. Partnership support remains vital in enabling us meet our ambitions and in allowing us reach a wider cohort of interested stakeholders.

The year was particularly marked by increased activity and focus on preparation for the anticipated completion of the City Assembly House works and the ambitious Society of Artists' Exhibition to mark this momentous occasion. While I wish to commend the work of the committees directly tasked with the foregoing I would also like to acknowledge the generous support of public bodies and private donors which sustained and underpinned the pursuit of these goals.

Finally, it is only fitting that I acknowledge the diligent and determined work of all- the staff team, volunteers, committee members and board members who enabled the delivery of such a wide range of worthwhile and erudite lectures, seminars and events over the course of the year.

Michael Wall, FRIAI

4. CONSERVATION GRANTS

The Society's Conservation Grants Programme awarded funding to nine building conservation projects around the country in 2017 with the total value of grants amounting to €50,000. This is the fourth successive year of the Society's Small Grants Scheme with total funding provided so far amounting to in excess of €200,000.

Funded by IGS London, these grants helped owners and guardians of architecturally-important historic buildings to fund essential works which may not otherwise have been possible. Further information about the projects can be found on the Society's website: www.igs.ie.

1. Maunsell Chapel (c.1820), Tea Lane cemetery, Celbridge, Co. Kildare (€6,500)
2. Stradbally Hall, Co. Laois (€6,000)
3. Old Parochial House, Monkstown, Co. Cork (€4,000)
4. O'Brien Column (c. 1858), Liscannor, Co. Clare (€6,000)
5. St Johns Church (c.1810-1820), Ballycastle, Co. Mayo (€2,500)
6. The Church of Saint John the Evangelist (c. 1815), Monasterevin, Co Kildare (€3,000)
7. Town Hall (c.1863), Mountmellick, Co. Laois (€5,000)
8. Ballinrobe House (c. 1740), Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo (€7,000)
9. St Micheal & All Angels, Sallins, Co. Kildare (€5,000)



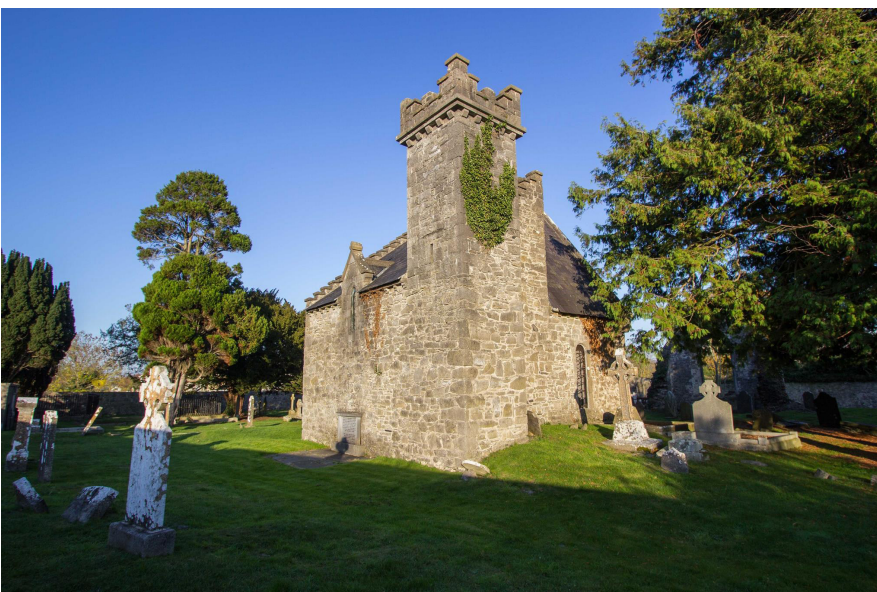
4. The O'Brien Column, Liscannor Bay, Co. Clare, seen here after conservation work in November 2017. The IGS grant of €6,000 was put toward stabilising its crowning decorative urn which was in danger of collapse.



2. Stradbally Hall, Co. Laois received a grant of €6,000 to support the continuation of their roof repair programme with the repair of the lead valley gutters on the roof and portico, which are allowing water to penetrate the structure, damaging internal decorative plasterwork.



8. Ballinrobe House, Co. Mayo received a grant of €7,000 to also support the restoration of the original entrance door of the house.



1. Tea Lane cemetery, Celbridge, Co. Kildare - the grant of €6,500 supports the restoration of the Maunsell Chapel (c.1820) which is being led by the Tea Lane Graveyard Committee whose aim is the conservation and preservation of this significant heritage area.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In fulfilling its role to conserve, protect and foster an interest and a respect for Ireland's architectural heritage and decorative arts, the Irish Georgian Society delivered a range of education and conservation programmes throughout 2017. Central to the delivery of these are the Society's Scholarship Programme, Conservation Education Programme, Conservation Projects Programme, Planning, Policy and Buildings-at-Risk Programme, and Membership Events' Programme.

Donough Cahill



5.1 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Irish Architectural & Decorative Studies

The twentieth-anniversary edition of *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies* commemorates the 50th anniversary of the purchase of Castletown by the Hon Desmond Guinness and the role played by Castletown and its families in defining the history of Irish art, architecture and the decorative arts. The editor, Associate Professor of Architecture at UCD, Dr Finola O'Kane, has assembled original and critical research into Castletown House and its many histories. Vol. XX contained the following articles:

Kyle Leyden – *Substance over style: Castletown and the protean politics of Irish “improvement”*

Neil Crimmins – *A Dublin streetscape in 1703: an urban legacy of the Dongan estate*

Patrick Walsh – *Between the Speaker and the Squire: the Anglo-Irish life of William Conolly*

Patricia McCarthy – *Master of the hounds and “Father of the Turf”: Tom Conolly and his equine exploits*

Cóilín Ó Drisceoil – *The wider Castletown: the designed landscape of the Wonderful Barn and Barn Hall*

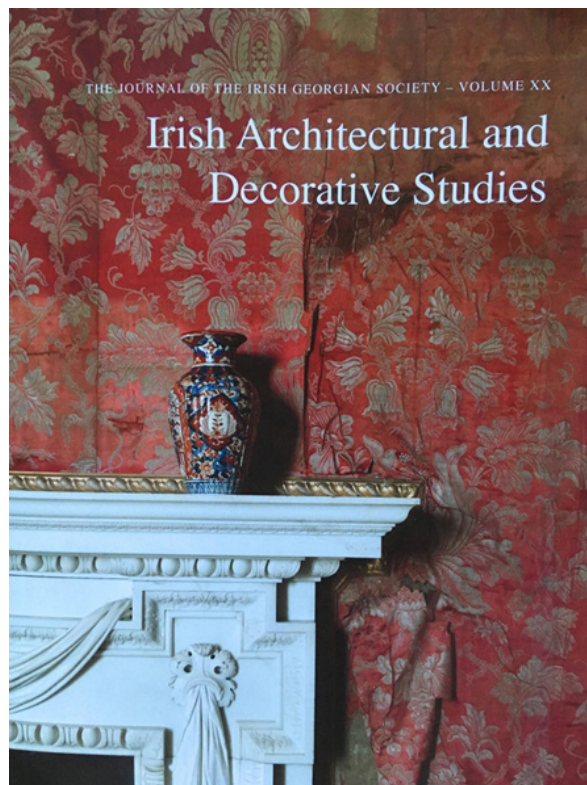
Aidan O'Boyle – *The history of the Castletown collections, 1720-1960*

Christopher Moore – *The conservation of the Red Drawing Room at Castletown*

Dorothea Depner – *Castletown in state ownership: reviving an Italianate palazzo, 1994-2017*

Nicola Figgis – *Lady Anne Conolly (1713-97): context and collection*

Jeanne Meldon – *Edmond Garvey's views of Castletown*



The Desmond Guinness Scholarship 2017

The Desmond Guinness Scholarship was established in 1996 to mark the departure of Desmond Guinness as President of the Society. It is awarded annually by the Society to applicants engaged in research on the visual arts of Ireland including the work of Irish architects, artists and craftsmen at home and abroad, 1600-1900. Preference is given to work based on original documentary research, and is intended primarily for applicants who are not yet established at an advanced professional level in research or publication of the visual arts.

The 2017 Desmond Guinness Scholarship was awarded to Kristina Decker for her study on *Women and Improvement in Eighteenth-Century Ireland: The Case of Mary Delany*. Kristina was presented with her scholarship by Desmond Guinness Scholarship committee member Professor Kathleen James Chakraborty at the Society's annual members' Christmas Party, held at Belvedere House on 9 December 2017.



5.2 CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Irish Georgian Society promotes traditional building skills and best conservation practice through holding seminars which aim to provide more in-depth understanding of conservation issues for historic homeowners, conservation professionals and others with an interest in traditionally-built buildings. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points are available for members of relevant professional institutions attending the seminars. The 2017 programme of events included the Conserving your Dublin Period House course, the Mechanical and Electrical Study Day, the Conserving your Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Historic House evening course and the Westport 250 Study Day.

Conserving your Dublin Period House course

February, March, April and May 2017

The twelve-week lunchtime talk series was presented by the Irish Georgian Society and Dublin City Council at the RSAI, 63 Merrion Square, Dublin 2. The talks provided information on the history and significance of Dublin's period houses and practical advice on their conservation.

Jacqui Donnelly, *My House is a Protected Structure: what does this mean? Examining policy and legislation*

Charles Duggan, *Dublin's Domestic Architecture: its historic stylistic evolution*

Frank Keohane, *A Stitch in Time Saves Nine: Practical Building Conservation and Maintenance*

Sarah Halpin and Carl Raftery, *Energy Performance in Protected Structures; planning implications and grants*

Dr Nessa Roche, *Historic Windows: their history, significance and conservation*

Peter Clarke, *Historic Doors & Staircases: their history and conservation*

Lisa Edden, *Keeping the Water Out and What to Do When the Water Gets in*

Susan Roundtree, *Historic Bricks: their history, significance and conservation*

Andrew Smith, *Historic Decorative Plasterwork: its history, significance and conservation*

Grainne Shaffrey, *The Importance of Using Lime & Historic Pointing Techniques in Dublin*

Ali Davey, *Historic Ironwork: its history, significance and conservation*

Nicola Matthews, *Sensitively Extending your Period House*

Susan Galvan, *Architectural Walking Tour of Dublin's Domestic Architecture*

Engineering the Past to Meet the Needs of the Future: best practice installation of mechanical and electrical services into historic buildings

Russborough, County Wicklow, 13th June 2017

This study day was presented by the Irish Georgian Society and the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, Rural and Regional Affairs, in association with the CIF Register of Heritage Contractors.

The full capacity study day, which was attended by 140 conservation architects, engineers, building contractors and architectural conservation officers, presented an opportunity to learn about and discuss detailed, technical case studies of sensitively designed and fitted services in historic buildings.

Session one:

Stuart MacPherson, *The Integration of Services in Historic Buildings*

Andrew More, *The Installation of Building Services into Historic Buildings – some matters to think about ...*

Session two:

Niamh Kiernan and Lisa Edden, *Russborough, County Wicklow: phase one M&E upgrades to country house as museum*

David Brennan, Kevin Blackwood and Alice Bentley, *National Gallery of Ireland: retrofitting 21st century environmental control systems into an historic museum*

Session three:

Grainne Shaffrey and Edith Blennerhasset and Graeme Parker *14 Henrietta Street, Dublin Tenement Museum: townhouse as museum*

Michael Stone, Royal Academy of Arts, London

James Howley, *St. Catherine's Church, Meath Street, Dublin 1: church continuing as place of worship*

Brendan Dervan, *Kilmainham Courthouse: courthouse as visitor and interpretative centre*

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown's Historic Houses Conservation Course

October and November 2017

The Dun Laoghaire Rathdown's Historic Houses conservation course was delivered in partnership with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's Heritage Office. It provided an A to Z for owners and occupiers of period buildings of the history and significance of their houses, and practical conservation advice on how best look after them. The twelve evening lectures were delivered in the Royal St. George Yacht Club, and complemented by an architectural walking tour.

Jacqui Donnelly, *My House is a Protected Structure: what does this mean? examining policy and legislation*

Peter Pearson, *Dún Laoghaire's Domestic Architecture: its history and significance*

Grainne Shaffrey, *The Importance of Using Lime*

Frank Keohane, *A Stitch in Time Saves Nine': the importance of preventative maintenance*

Ali Davey, *Historic Ironwork: its history, significance & conservation*

Andrew Smith, *Historic Decorative Plasterwork: its care & repair* Lisa Edden, *Keeping the Water Out & What to do when the Water Gets In*

Nicola Matthews, *Sensitively Extending your Period Home*

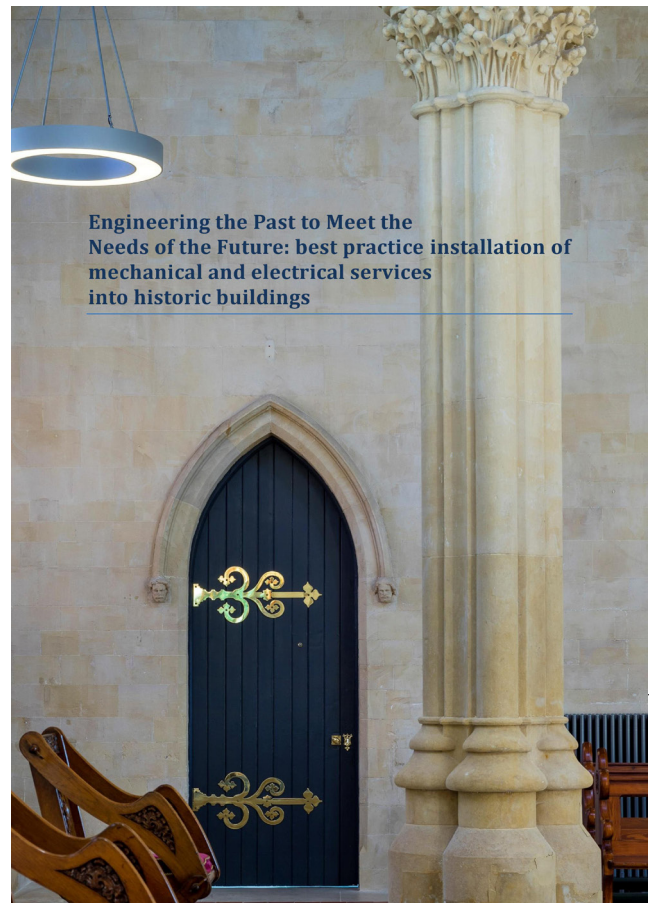
Susan Roundtree, *Historic Bricks: their history, significance and conservation*

Laura Bowen, *What you Need to Know about Historic Roofs: their history, significance & maintenance*

Nessa Roche, *Historic Windows: their history, significance and conservation*

Eimear Hearne, *Energy Efficiency in your Period Home: why old shouldn't mean cold*

Rob Goodbody, *Architectural walking tour of Dún Laoghaire's domestic housing stock*



to

Westport 250 Study Day

10th November 2017

The Irish Georgian Society and Mayo County Council, in association with Westport Historical Society and Westport Tourism, partnered to deliver a study day which celebrated 250 years of the Browne family, Westport House and its planned Georgian town. The full capacity study day was held in the historic drawing room at Westport House.

Session I

Martin Mansergh, *The Act of Union - Its background, and its political, economic and social consequences*

Gordon Kennedy, *The Brownes of Westport House: aristocracy, politics and the exercise of power in County Mayo; 1780-1830*

Kevin Blackwood, *The incremental construction of Westport House and its Architects*

Aidan O'Boyle, *Miscellaneous Musings on the Architectural History of Westport House*

John Flannery, Tipperary - *The lost legacy of William Leeson*

Session II

Fintan Duffy, *'Et in Arcadia Ego'; the picturesque origins of Westport Estate and Town*

Dr Eamon O'Flaherty, *Town planning and urban development in the age of Enlightenment and an introduction to the RIA's Irish Historic Towns Atlas for Westport*

Aine Doyle, *Holy Trinity Church, Westport*

Gráinne Shaffrey, *The Irish town, a work of art and a place to live*

Simon Wall, *Westport, the past 20 years*



Speakers, supporters and convenors of the Westport 250 Study Day (L-R from back row):
Dr Gordon Kennedy; Grainne Shaffrey; Donal O'Shea; Colm Murray; Donough Cahill; Dr Martin Mansergh; front row left to right: Simon Wall; Emmeline Henderson; Siobhan Sexton; Scott Hayes; Aine Doyle; Fintan Duffy; Dr Aidan O'Boyle; Biddy Hughes and Karin Hughes.

5.3 MEMBERS' EVENTS PROGRAMME

The lectures and tour included in the Society's Membership Events Programme are a central part of our activities. Those based in Dublin are organised through the Membership Events Committee, whilst Chapter committees in Ireland, London and the USA are to be commended for the great work they do in delivering events for members in their regions.

Special events

June – Summer Garden Party in Knockanree Gardens, County Wicklow

August – RDS Horse Show

September – Benefactors & Patrons lunch at Luggala, County Wicklow

September – Irish Antiques Dealers Association Antiques Fair

Members' lecture series

January – *Lutyens and Lambay* - Lecture with Dr. Matthew Jebb

February – *Thomas Roberts (1748-1777) and His Patrons: A Tour of Georgian Ireland*

Lecture with William Laffan

February – *'From jangling steeples to hill-rimmed houses: The Buildings of South Ulster'* – Lecture with Kevin V. Mulligan

March – *Desmond Guinness Lecture* with Dr. Blátháin Hurley and Myles McKenna

April – *Dublin's music under the Georges* – Lecture with Adrian Le Harivel

April – *Wicklow's Traditional Farmhouses* – Lecture with Christiaan Corlett

May – *Irish Landmark Trust Lecture* with Dr Edward McParland and Nicholas Robinson

November – Standish Barry Lecture with Roger White: *'Cottages Ornes of Georgian Ireland'*

December – Peter Francis *'17th & 18th-Century Irish Glass and Ceramics; Some Major Recent Discoveries'*

December – IGS Christmas Party, Belvedere House

Members' walking tours

February - Tour of Edward Worth Library and St Patrick's Hospital Archive

March – Morning walking tour of Dublin's North City

April – Young Irish Georgians Lost Fashion History Tour of South William Street and Merrion Square with Ruth Griffin

October - Maynooth University South Campus Tour

June – Walking Tour of Grangegorman

July - Walking Tour of Ballsbridge: In Architecture and in Revolution

August – Walking Tour of Liberties

August – Summer Docklands Walking Tour

November – South City Tour with Pat Murray

Members' day trips

June – Tour of Castletown House and Leixlip Castle

July – Summer Picnic Tour to County Meath

July – Day trips to Lambay Island

August – Day tour to County Kildare

May – Day Tour with Pat Murray

September – Day Tour to County Waterford

Members' international tours

June - *Great Country Houses and Gardens of Moravia* with Harriet Landseer

November – Tour to Palermo, Sicily



Nicholas Robinson and Dr. Edward McParland at the Irish Landmark Trust's 25th Anniversary lecture at the Royal Society of Antiquaries, Merrion Square (May 2017)



IGS International Tour to Sicily (November 2017)

5.4 IGS CHAPTER EVENTS

Birr/Midlands Chapter

February - Publication of brochures and flyers for the Birr FAN (Famous & Notables) Trail
March – Talk from Amanda Pedlow, Offaly County Heritage Officer
March – St Patrick's Day drinks party
June – Excursion to Northern Ireland with Gerry Browne
August – Birr Vintage Week
November – Annual Meeting
December – Christmas Party in Birr Castle

Cork Chapter

January – Lecture and visit to the Crawford Gallery with Dr Alicia St Leger
February – Day tour to Minane Bridge, Tracton Abbey, Knocknahanagh House
May – Day tour to Belgooly Mills and Newborough House
June – Visiting Crosshaven House and the Church of Ireland
November – Holy Trinity Church, Frankfield, and Donnybrook House, Douglas

Limerick Chapter

February – Lecture: *The Other Georgian Limerick with John Elliott*
March – Lecture: *Social Space: Seeing Georgian Limerick with Deirdre Power*
April – Lecture: *A Rising City* by Dr David Fleming
May – Summer Tour Series: Abbeyleix House
June - Doneraile Tour: St. Mary's Church, Creagh House, Doneraile Park
September – Lecture: *Wordsworth, Jane Austen & Tom Lefroy* with Sandra Lefroy
September - Ledwithstown and Tullynally Day Tour
September - *The Architectural History and Restoration of Abbey Leix* with William Laffan
October – Pat Ruane, Cork Conservation Officer, *Buildings at Risk? View from the Coalface*
December – A Georgian Christmas, 2 Pery Square

Irish Georgian Society London

January – London Country Houses lecture with Caroline Knight
February – Day visit to the House Mill and Rainham Mill
March – St Patrick's Day party
June - Day visit to Southill And Ampthill
July - Day visit to Cambridge Colleges and a Presentation of a Play
July- Summer Party at the London Rowing Club
July - London Walking Tour with Louise Chapman

US Chapters

March – Lecture and reception at The Tangerine Theatre, Hobe Sound, FL, to launch *Abbey Leix: An Irish Home and Its Demense*
March – Lecture by Robert O'Byrne on the City Assembly House, held in The Chesterfield Hotel, Palm Beach, FL
March – Palm Beach, FL, launch of *Abbey Leix: An Irish Home and Its Demense*
March - Lecture and reception at the Charleston Library Society, Charleston, SC
March – Visits to the 18th-century homes of Charleston, SC
June - Growing up in an Irish House Lecture and Reception
October – Wexford Opera Festival Tour
October - New York Gala Dinner at the New York Yacht Club
October - Abbey Leix Book Launch with Sir David Davies in The Colony Club, New York
October - Chicago Gala Dinner at The Casino Club, Chicago



IGS London members on a walking tour of London with guide Louise Chapman
(July 2017)



Sir David Davies launching *Abbey Leix: An Irish Home and Its Demense*
at the Palm Beach home of Fred and Kay Krehbiel (October 2017)

5.5 PLANNING, POLICY AND BUILDINGS-AT-RISK PROGRAMME

(1) PLANNING SUBMISSIONS

Belcamp, Co. Dublin

In its submissions to both Fingal County Council and AN Bord Pleanála, the IGS raised concerns about the impact of a major residential development on the house and suburban demesne landscape of Belcamp, with particular reference to a failure to adequately assess the impact on the landscape in light of the connection between Edward Newenham and George Washington and the American Revolution. Permission was eventually granted with restrictions on the scale of the development and requirements to undertake an historic landscape assessment.

Former Carroll's Building, 2 Grand Parade, Dublin

The IGS submission to Dublin City Council on a proposal for a large commercial development to the rear of the former Carroll's Building at No. 2 Grand Parade raised concerns about the height and scale of the proposed development and its impact on the Architectural Conservation Area at Dartmouth Square. The application remains under consideration by An Bord Pleanála (Sept. 2018)

Tara Street, Dublin

In response to the proposed development of a twenty-two storey commercial tower at Tara Street, Dublin 2, the IGS made submissions to Dublin City Council and An Bord Pleanála highlighting the detrimental visual impact of development due to its excessive height at a key location in the historic core of Dublin, including on the Custom House and the Georgian Core. Permission was ultimately refused.

Vernon Mount, Co. Cork

On the first anniversary of a fire that caused extensive damage, the IGS made a submission to the Cork County Manager and copied to the Minister expressing frustration that there has been no action so long after the fire took place and recommending that the County Council move to acquire the lands by CPO to ensure that what remains of the building is protected. As of September 2018, the Council has yet to act on this.

Aldbrough House

After many years dereliction and its acquisition by a new owner, planning permission was sought to restore Aldbroough House and to construct office blocks to either side, linked with glazed sections. The IGS submission called for the removal of proposed new mezzanines within the house, and a reduction in height of the new office blocks and of the glazed link structures. Permission was eventually granted and partially addressed the concerns of the IGS.

Hell Fire Club / Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre

The IGS made two submissions to An Bord Pleanála in respect of an application by South Dublin County Council for a 'Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre' at Coillte's Hell Fire and Massy's Wood forest properties. The Society raised significant concerns about the impact of the proposal on the historic landscape of the Massy Estate.

Donaghcumper, Co. Kildare

The IGS made a robust submission to Kildare County Council as part of a public consultation on a draft Direction issued by the Minister of State for Housing and Planning and Local Government directing that Kildare County Council reverse the change of zoning from town centre use to open space proposed for the Donaghcumper lands in the Celbridge Local Area Plan 2017-2023. The Society was supporting the work of the Celbridge Action Alliance through whose efforts the demesne was successfully protected.

Carstown House, Co. Louth

This important early house had long stood empty and vulnerable to vandalism and was gutted in a fire in October 2017. The IGS had previously supported a campaign by the Louth Archaeological Society to save the house, and following the fire, continued to support its efforts to consolidate its ruins.

Castletownmoor Wind Farm, Co. Meath

The Society's submission argued that the development of the proposed wind farm failed to address previous reasons for refusal of a larger development at the same location and would have a significant negative impact on the historic landscape of Meath and on the architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage of the area and, in particular, on Headfort House. Permission was refused for the proposed wind farm in July 2017.

Bishop's Palace, Henry Street, Limerick

The Bishop's Palace was constructed c. 1775 for Edmund Sexton Pery, 1st Viscount Pery, along with no. 105 Henry Street. The Society objected to the proposed subdivision of this building and the construction of a 15 storey tower on an adjoining site. Permission subsequently granted though with amendments to the works to the Bishop's Palace which addressed the concerns of the IGS.

(II) POLICY MATTERS

Valuing People and Place / The Heritage Council 2018-2022

In response to a public consultation process, the IGS made a submission on The Heritage Council's Strategic Plan 2018-22.

Dublin City Parks Strategy Consultation Draft

The IGS submission to this draft paper recommended that any objectives for the conservation of Dublin's parks as assets of heritage value would be rendered meaningless in the absence of the preparation of an historic landscape assessment and an inventory of features of architectural heritage importance undertaken by a suitably qualified professional for each historic park.

Review of Section 482 Relief

A review of Section 482 was started in 2017 through the publication of a consultation paper which the IGS made a lengthy submission on. In this submission, the Society recommended a range of measures to improve the efficacy of the scheme including the need to generate greater awareness of participating properties, to remove high earners restriction, to provide credits towards public access requirements for specially organised events relating to culture, education and leisure; and introduce a targeted grant scheme for those approved properties whose owners do not have the income to avail of the tax relief.

National Planning Framework (Ireland 2040)

Submission to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government that highlighted the importance of considering heritage in the formulation of the Framework, the need for it to be informed by the National Landscape Character Assessment, the need to complete the NIAH Survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, the creation of a database of assets of national and international heritage importance, and the inclusion of a clear objective that all consenting authorities are adequately resourced with qualified conservation professionals.



George Washington tower at Belcamp, Co. Dublin
(Image via edwardlengel.com)



Smoldering remains of Carstown House
(Image via droghedalife.com)



15 storey tower and associated development next to the Bishop's Palace, Limerick
(Image via Healy Partners)



Front view of proposed Aldborough House development
(Image via Howley Hayes Architects)

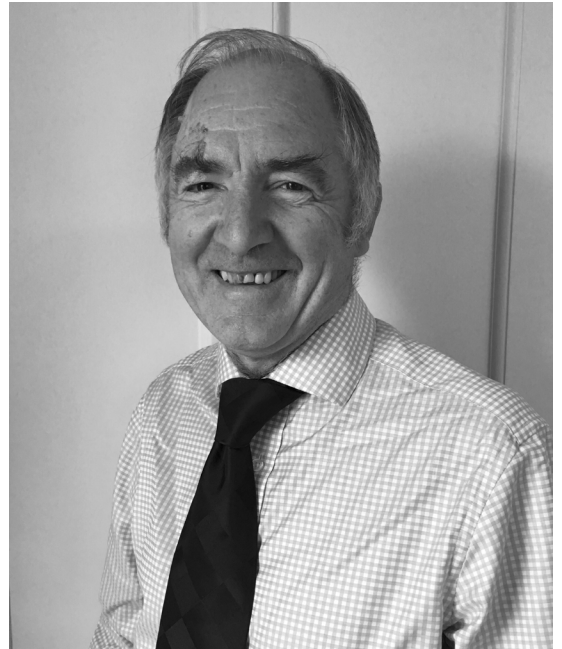
6. TREASURERS REPORT

On the following pages you will find details of the financial results of the Irish Georgian Foundation for 2017 in a format which has been presented to the Society for many years.

Copies of the full audited financial statements for 2017 are available at our Annual Meeting for inspection by members. These audited statements will be filed with the Companies Registration Office and the Charities Regulatory Authority during October and be available on our website.

The income and expenditure account shows that the Society incurred an operating deficit of € 76,246 before a transfer of €26,250 was made from reserves, to result in a deficit of €49,996 for the year. The operating deficit was expected and is likely to continue until the City Assembly House is fully operational and can generate additional income from its exhibition space and basement in 2019. Fortunately the Society has the benefit of cash reserves to sustain its operations until we can increase our revenue.

The major feature of the 2017 financial year was the restoration of the exhibition room and the installation of universal access from Coppinger Row. This work was financed by funds from our members and friends in the USA, UK and Ireland with significant support from Dublin City Council and the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.



Charlie Sweeney

6.1 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 €	2016 €
INCOME			
Irish Georgian Society members' subscriptions	1	130,204	138,449
Donations, bequests and other funds raised	2	27,680	36,285
Income tax recovered on certain donations		14,573	2,194
Net income from operations		142,106	156,278
Deposit interest and investment income		373	22
Grant amortisation		62,663	26,389
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income		377,599	359,617
		<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries and pension costs		(260,982)	(262,604)
Operational expenses and information technology		(59,107)	(58,789)
Office rent and storage		(1,000)	(1,000)
Publications, postage and stationery		(27,980)	(31,538)
Bank interest and charges		(6,227)	(5,849)
Professional fees		(8,915)	(14,000)
Motor, travelling and fund-raising expenses		(16,424)	(12,659)
Insurance		(5,773)	(4,348)
Depreciation of and loss on disposal of fixed assets		(67,437)	(30,030)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure		(453,845)	(420,817)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit for year (general funds)		(76,246)	(61,200)
Support from bequest fund		26,250	32,250
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit for year (general funds)		(49,996)	(28,950)
		=====	=====

6.2 NOTES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

31 December 2017

Presentation

The Irish Georgian Foundation, a charitable organisation operating as the 'Irish Georgian Society', receives subscriptions from the Society's members. The Foundation maintains membership and financial records and produces financial statements in accordance with relevant companies and charities legislation which are audited and filed with the Companies Registration Office annually.

This report summarises income and expenditure from the audited financial statements of the Foundation and includes information about its activities for the financial year with the aim of keeping members informed of how the objects of promoting and furthering the advancement of education in the fine arts in Ireland and maintaining and preserving buildings of special architectural merit are achieved.

(I) IGS MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS

	2017	2016
	€	€
Ireland	95,039	101,267
United Kingdom	12,783	16,688
United States of America	22,382	20,494
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	130,204	138,449
	=====	=====

	Number	Number
Paid active membership figures at 31 December are	1,722	1,822
	=====	=====

(II) DONATIONS, BEQUESTS AND OTHER FUNDS RAISED

	2017	2016
	€	€
Bequests	5,198	1,500
OWL Foundation	-	8,900
Private Donor	-	4,452
Corporate donations	-	1,800
IGS Inc	10,156	10,156
Patrons' and other donation	12,326	9,477
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27,680	36,285
	=====	=====

6.2 NOTES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

continued 31 December 2017

In 2012 the Foundation received a bequest of €500,000 from the late Mrs Elizabeth Burke, a deceased member of the Irish Georgian Society, which has been transferred to a special fund. An amount of €26,250 (2016: €32,250) from this fund was used for fundraising and development which had been approved by the Board, leaving a balance of €376,917 on this fund at 31 December 2017.

(III) GRANTS PAID

Since 2014 the Foundation has operated a small grants programme with funding from our London Chapter and other sources. The following grants were made from restricted funds:

Programme year	2017	2016
	€	€
Fund designated for programme year plus unspent from prior years	73,500	47,000
Grant payments for approved projects in prior years	(42,500)	-
Grant payments for approved projects in current year	(17,000)	(29,500)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance unspent at 31 December	14,000	17,500
	=====	=====

Details of the projects funded are given on pp. 7-10.

(IV) CITY ASSEMBLY HOUSE

In 2011, the Foundation entered into a thirty-year lease of 58 South William Street, Dublin, which is referred to as the City Assembly House. Between October 2012 and June 2013, phase one of conservation works were carried out with funds raised by the Society and a grant from Dublin City Council. In July 2013, The Foundation moved into the building. In April 2017 restoration works on the exhibition room and universal access commenced and are due to be completed in 2018, in time for the “Society of Artists” major art exhibition in June 2018.

The Foundation acknowledges the support of members in the USA, UK and Ireland, of other bodies including the Ireland Funds, Dublin City Council and the Department of Art, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in enabling and funding this major restoration project.

(V) HERITAGE ASSETS

The Foundation owns a collection of furniture and artefacts, most of which are on display in Castletown House. The items in Castletown House and in other houses owned by the Foundation had a valuation of €1,067,915 as at 31 December 2017 (2016: €1,085,979) which includes a collection of miniature portraits valued at €140,000, which were donated to the Foundation since 2015.