

Irish Georgian Society

Annual Report

for the year ended 31 December 2024



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.



The Irish Georgian Society is grateful to The Heritage Council for the support it receives through the Heritage Capacity Fund.

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Front cover: Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, Co. Cork, c. 1900 (Lawrence Photographic Collection, National Library of Ireland)

1. DIRECTORS, IRISH GEORGIAN FOUNDATION

The following individuals served as directors during 2024:

Apied, Mary - Founding Director and President of Trinity Foundation, the fund raising and alumni relations arm of Trinity College, retired in 2015. Member of the Board of The Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), the Irish Landmark Trust, Druid Theatre, Dance Theatre of Ireland and is on the Development Committees of The Lir Academy for Dramatic Art and Kilemore Abbey. Mary has over thirty years experience of fundraising and strategic change in universities and non-profit organisations.

Barber, John DL MRICS - Chair of IGS London, Chair of House Mill Trust, Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London for HM The Queen, founder and liveryman of the Arts and Scholars Livery Company and trustee of charitable trust for Arts and Scholars.

Browne, Victoria - Member of City Assembly House Committee; previously board member of IGS (2013-19); former Collections & Museum Standards, Irish Heritage Trust; former board member Castletown Foundation.

Coleman, Zoë - Graduate of UCD (BA Arts) and University of Glasgow (MLitt). Chair of the Young Irish Georgians since 2016, and worked for the IGS from 2015 to 2020 as Programmes and Communications Coordinator. An alum of the Attingham Summer School (2018). Currently holds position of Communications and Marketing Manager, Trinity College Dublin.

Cooney, Thomas (US) (Resigned 22 January 2024) - Exec VP, CIO MedPoint Digital Inc.; Chairman IGS Inc (US); MBA (Marketing) Miami University.

Earley, William - graduated from UCD (BA Economics & Politics) in 1970 and admitted as a solicitor in Ireland in 1973. Practised as a solicitor in Dublin for nearly 40 years, 32 of them as a partner in McCann FitzGerald. Currently serves as director or in other advisory roles in the voluntary sector. Graduated after retirement from TCD with an M.Phil. in the History of Irish Art and Architecture.

Hall, Jacqueline - Founder and Principal of Partners in Communication. Has worked for global brands and national organisations, across several business sectors. Previously served as President of the Public Relations Institute of Ireland, and as a member of the Board of Governors and Guardians of the National Gallery of Ireland, and as a board member of Irish Water, Ervia, and former Council Member of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce. Graduated from UCD with a BA (Hons), History & History of Art, and holds further qualifications from Technical University Dublin (Marketing Management), UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School (Grad Dip in Corporate Governance), The Honourable Society of King's Inns (Advanced Dip in Data Protection Law/GDPR), and Trinity College Dublin (Grad Dip in Conflict & Dispute Resolution).

Lucey, Dr Conor - Architectural and design historian; Assistant Professor in the School of Art History and Cultural Policy, University College Dublin; President of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

Moorhead, Sara SC - Barrister, Member of the Council of the Bar of Ireland from 2013 to 2017 as a Senior Counsel, and previously a member of the Counsel of the Bar of Ireland as a Junior Counsel from 1995 to 1999. Former member of the Education Committee of the King's Inns between 1995 and 2017, and of the Standing Committee of the Council of the King's Inns from 2014 to 2017. Elected as a Bencher of the Honourable Society of King's Inns

in 2015. Sits on the Boards of Irish National Opera, The Dublin Dispute Resolution Centre and the Denham Fellowship.

Murray, Pat (appointed Sept. 2023) - Building management consultant. Member of the IGS Membership Events Committee, the City Assembly House & Exhibition Committee, and the IGS Membership Development WG. Previously served on the IGF board from 2011-2017 and currently sits on the board of the Castletown Foundation.

Murray, Dr Peter - B.A., M.Litt, Ph.D. (hc) Artist and art historian, former director, Crawford Art Gallery, Cork (retired 2017); co-editor Vol V, Art and Architecture of Ireland (RIA 2014); honorary doctorate UCC 2019; longtime contributor to Irish Arts Review and other publications, member IGS City Assembly House Exhibition Committee 2018 to present.

Sheridan, Charlotte (appointed Sept. 2023) - Registered architect and town planner specialising in urban regeneration, housing, sustainable communities and collaborative planning in towns and cities in Ireland, with past experience in London and Berlin. She served as president of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (2022/23) and is a member of the Irish Planning Institute (IPI), with over 20 years' professional experience as a director of Sheridan Woods, an architecture and urban planning practice. She is a member of the IGS Architectural Conservation & Planning Committee.

Sweeney, Charlie - Chartered Accountant, and retired Director with EY Financial Services Group; Fellow of the Institute of the Chartered Accountants in England and Wales; Deputy Treasurer of the Irish Georgian Foundation; member of the IGF Finance and Governance Committees, and the City Assembly House Committee.

Sullivan, John (appointed Sept. 2023) - Former Chairman of Gerli & Co., Inc., a vertically integrated textile manufacturing company. Chair of Irish Georgian Society, Inc. (USA) and board member of the American Friends of the National Gallery of Ireland. Avid horseman with strong connections to Ireland and Boyne Hill Stud in Navan, Co. Meath, which was owned by his family.

Wall, Michael - Chairman of the Irish Georgian Foundation. Barrister, qualified architect and planner. Former board member An Bord Pleanála (1999-2006), board member of National Asset Management Agency and Chair of NAMA Planning Advisory Committee. Trustee of Simpson's Hospital, board member Abbey Theatre, board member Irish National Opera and council member Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland. Former board member Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (2015-2021).

Other officers of the Irish Georgian Society in 2024

Sir David Davies, President Irish Georgian Society

A banker by profession, Sir David started his business career in 1963 with Chase Manhattan Bank in New York, and then with Hill Samuel, the leading English merchant bank in New York and then London. In 1973 he became Finance Director of MEPC. He moved to Hong Kong in 1983, becoming a director of Jardine Matheson and managing director of Hong Kong Land and returned to London in the late 1980s where he became chief executive of Hill Samuel. In the 1990s he served both as Chairman and Chief Executive of Johnson Matthey and was subsequently appointed as Chairman of EFG Private Bank Ltd in London from 1999 to 2006. He was awarded the Knights Bachelor in the 1999 New Year's Honours List. Sir David carefully and judiciously conserved and restored Abbey Leix, Co. Laois, which he sold in 2021 and now lives at his old family home at Killoughter in Co. Wicklow.

Primrose Wilson CBE, Vice-President Irish Georgian Society

Chair of IGS Grants Committee, former board member of the Irish Georgian Foundation from 2011-2017 and vice-Chair from 2014-17; founding Chair of the Irish Follies Trust, former President of Ulster Architectural Heritage, and former Director of the Ulster Historic Churches Trust.

Donough Cahill, Executive Director IGS

MSc. Executive Leadership (UU), Postgrad. Dip. Building Conservation (TCD), Postgrad. Dip. Heritage Management (UCC), BA Geography & Archaeology (UCD). 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 in this regard.

2. COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND STAFF (2024)

2.1 Committees

Architectural conservation and planning committee

Purpose: The committee shall review, consider, implement where appropriate and promote the IGF's architectural conservation and planning policies.

Members: David Armstrong (Chair), John Geraghty, Sunni Goodson, Amy Hastings, Ashleigh Murray, John Olley, Susan Roundtree, Charlotte Sheridan
Donough Cahill (*ex officio*), Emmeline Henderson (*ex officio*)

Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies / Journal Editorial Board

Purpose: The Editorial Board shall advise the editor on the quality, standards and publication of IADS.

Members: Christine Casey, Nicola Figgis, Alison FitzGerald, David Griffin, David Fleming (Editor), Livia Hurley, Ruth Kenny, William Laffan, Conor Lucey, Anna Moran, Kevin V. Mulligan, Finola O'Kane, Brendan Rooney, Ellen Rowley, John Montague

Audit & Risk Committee

Purpose: The committee shall assist and oversee the work of the Treasurer in administering the financial affairs of the IGF and IGS.

Members: Donall Curtin (Chair), Brian Redmond, Charlie Sweeney, Rose Mary Craig, Brendan Twomey, Sara Moorhead, Moira Lynam, Máiréad Devine
Olivia Brosnan (*ex officio*), Donough Cahill (*ex officio*)

Governance Committee

Purpose: The Committee shall review, consider and propose changes to the governing instruments, structure, regulations and operation of the IGF and IGS.

Members: Brian Redmond, Charlie Sweeney, Deirbhile Brennan, Donall Curtin, David Fleming, Jacqueline Hall, William Earley
Olivia Brosnan (*ex officio*), Donough Cahill (*ex officio*)

Membership & Events Committee

Purpose: The committee shall develop and implement the IGF membership events programme and membership activities, promote membership and membership retention.

Membership: Rose Mary Craig (chair), Pat Murray, Glascott Symes, Johnnie McCoy, Letitia Pollard, James Paul McDonnell, Mary McGaver-Dixon, Cathal Dowd-Smith
Yuliia Parkhomenko (*ex officio*)

Education Committee

Purpose: The committee shall review, develop and implement the IGF's education programme or policy.

Membership: currently dormant

City Assembly House & Exhibitions Committee

Purpose: to oversee the management, furnishing and decorating of the City Assembly House.

Membership: James Paul McDonnell (Chair), Pat Murray, Peter Murray, William Laffan, Victoria Browne, Zoe Coleman
Donough Cahill (*ex officio*), Megan Randall (*ex officio*)

2.2 Working Groups & Panels

Membership Development WG

Simon Nugent (Chair), Victoria Browne, Pat Murray, Marianne Harris, John Geraghty
Donough Cahill (*ex officio*), Claire Gogarty (*ex officio*), Yuliia Parkhomenko (*ex officio*), James Ronan (*ex officio*)

Conservation Grants WG

Stuart Blakely (IGS London rep), Susan Roundtree, Robin Mandal, Michael Wall, Donough Cahill (*ex officio*), Alannah Pollard (*ex officio*)

IGS Review Panel

Letitia Pollard (Editor), Rose Mary Craig, Megan Randall (Editor), Donough Cahill (*ex officio*)

Architectural Conservation & Drawing Awards Panel

Livia Hurley (Chair), Frank McDonald, Karen Latimer, Simon Lincoln, Kevin Mulligan, Andrew Tierney

Desmond Guinness Scholarship Panel

Christine Casey, Kathleen James Chakraborty, David Fleming, Alison FitzGerald, Conor Lucey, Anna Moran
Emmeline Henderson (*ex officio*)

John Maiben Gilmartin Prize Panel

Conor Lucey, Finola O’Kane, Fintan Cullen, Emmeline Henderson (*ex officio*)

Publication Grants Panel

David Fleming, William Laffan, Conor Lucey, Donough Cahill (*ex officio*)

2.3 Staff 2024

Executive Director: Donough Cahill

Conservation Manager and Assistant Director: Emmeline Henderson

Membership Subscriptions Coordinator: Claire Gogarty

City Assembly House and Communications Coordinator: Megan Randall

Accounts Manager: Olivia Brosnan

CAH Bookshop Manager: Alannah Pollard

Membership Events Coordinator: Elaine Hurley (to June 2024) / Yuliia Parkhomenko (from October 2024)

3. IGS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Michael Wall

I am truly honoured to have been invited by the Irish Georgian Foundation to take on the position of Irish Georgian Society President. The role of IGS President is to represent the organisation at home and abroad, and to support its conservation, education and advocacy work. Having had the opportunity to engage so closely with the Society's boards, committees and volunteers in Ireland, the US and London, and with its staff who provide such essential support, I very much relish the opportunity to continue to assist in the coming years. In doing so, I will be inspired by the example of those who preceded me in this position, most notably by Sir David Davies who retired in December last year and has since been made IGS President Emeritus.



In stepping down as IGF Chair, I am delighted that the board has appointed Jacqueline Hall as my successor. Jacqueline joined the IGF board in 2023 since when she has actively supported the Sirius Arts Centre project, served on the Governance Committee and travelled to IGS events at home and abroad. I am also pleased that the IGF has appointed Randal McDonnell, 10th Earl of Antrim, as IGS Vice President. Lord Antrim is a long-time member of the IGS, is Chairman of Sarrasin & Partners (London), and manages his family home, Glenarm Castle, in Co. Antrim, where he and his wife have restored and further developed the gardens over the last 20 years.

2024 was a tremendously successful year for the Irish Georgian Society with great progress made in the restoration of the Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh which saw the reinstatement of key architectural elements that had long vanished from the building. This was made possible through the leadership of IGS Inc Chair, John Sullivan, and the great generosity of supporters in the US, most notably from the late Beth Dater Jennings and her husband Mitch, and from Tom and Denise Tormey. IGS members in Ireland and London have also been very supportive of the project providing particular assistance to essential underpinning works.

The Society's Conservation Grants Programme was once again supported through IGS London with additional funding from the late Homan Potterton, IGS Inc (US) and the Cork Chapter. Grants were awarded for a wide variety of projects that included the Lord Annaly monument, Co. Longford, Headfort House, Co. Meath, and Myrtle Grove, Co. Cork, while works included repairs to roofs, windows and rainwater goods, all essential in ensuring the survival of our fragile built heritage.

Our Education Programme continued to play a central role in the Society's work in promoting our built and decorative arts heritage. In 2024 our traditional building skills exhibition travelled to County Offaly where the Birr Chapter worked closely with us in a weekend-long programme of events. The bi-annual IGS Architectural Conservation Awards saw the recognition of projects from around the country while the Original Drawing Award was presented for a depiction of the Lion's Gate in Mote Park, a structure the IGS helped to restore some years ago.

The Society's support and encouragement of research was affirmed with the publication of the most recent issue of our Journal, *Irish Architectural & Decorative Studies*, which was published in tandem with the completion of the new IGS Journal website - www.igsjournal.ie. The Desmond Guinness Scholarship 2024 was presented to Ben Casey of

Maynooth University while Dr Priscilla Sonnier of UCD's School of Art History & Cultural Policy was the inaugural recipient of the John Maiben Gilmartin Prize.

The IGS Members' Events Programme is going from strength to strength with a greater number and variety of tours, talks and social occasions while the City Assembly House has played host to a continued rota of exhibitions and other events. In 2024 we were delighted to host an exhibition of portrait miniatures donated to the Society by the late Edmund Corrigan which was accompanied by an excellent new IGS publication by Kevin V Mulligan, *Portrait Miniatures and the Irish Country House: the Edmund Corrigan Collection*.

Sadly, in 2024 we saw the passing of the late, great Beth Dater Jennings. Beth who served as Chair of IGS Inc (US) and as an IGF board member for many years was a most generous supporter of the restoration of the City Assembly House and more recently of the Sirius Arts Centre. I was privileged to have known her over the years and will never forget her emotional response to seeing her and her husband Mitch's names inscribed inside the rooflight of the Sirius Art Centre, the restoration of which they had so generously funded. Little did I imagine that it would become a memorial, so soon, to a such a wonderful lady. May she rest in peace.

Finally, I wish to thank our members and all those who have lent their support to the work of the Irish Georgian Society. The active involvement of these is central to our work in promoting Ireland's heritage, the scope of which is illustrated in this report. I hope all will have an opportunity to take part in a lecture, tour or other occasion and I ask that you spread the word and ask friends and family to join as well.

Michael Wall

4. IGF CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2024

Jacqueline Hall

Having been appointed Chairperson of the Irish Georgian Foundation in July 2025, I am pleased to report that 2024 proved to be a successful and busy year for the Irish Georgian Society (IGS).

The year commenced with the adoption of a new five-year strategy to run to 2028 which was prepared by a board Working Group together with Wove, a Dublin based strategic design firm, and funded through the National Built Heritage Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. This Strategy aims to support the mission of the IGS through amplifying the influence and impact of its work by adopting a more concerted, strategic approach.



In fulfilling the objectives of the Strategy and its mission to promote and protect Ireland's built heritage, historic gardens, and decorative arts, the IGS pursued its core programmes relating to conservation projects, education, scholarship and advocacy. Highlights of 2024 included: delivering the first phase of works in restoring the Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh, Co. Cork; completion of a new website dedicated to *Irish Architectural & Decorative Studies*, the journal of the Irish Georgian Society; Offaly's Built Heritage Show of traditional building skills demonstrations, conservation talks & children's craft workshops; and an announcement of the IGS Architectural Conservation & Original Drawing Awards 2024. The Membership Events Programme was a great success with a generally fully booked schedule of lectures, walking and day trips, parties and international tours and c. 2,200 tickets in all sold. Further details of the wide range of initiatives delivered during the year are found later in this report under 'Achievements and performance'.

The work of the IGS would not be possible without the commitment of its professional staff, its board and committees, and the participation of its members throughout Ireland and abroad. Their work in delivering the Society's programmes is supported through grants from, among others, the Heritage Council, and the National Built Heritage Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. The generous support of members to assist the Society's conservation projects and scholarly and educational initiatives is also most important, while earned income from events and other activities plays a vital role in supporting overheads. Many thanks to all those who make these activities possible.

In 2024, the IGF welcomed John Sullivan, Charlotte Sheridan and Pat Murray to the board while no members reached the end of their terms during the year.

I wish to express the gratitude of all members of the IGF board to Sir David Davies who retired as President of the Irish Georgian Society in December 2024 and has since been recognised as IGS President Emeritus. I wish also to pay tribute to Primrose Wilson who has served three terms as IGS Vice President and to Michael Wall who was my predecessor as Chairperson of the IGF and held the position from 2017 until July 2025. His outstanding leadership during this time guided the Irish Georgian Society through its completion of the City Assembly House, a successful navigation of the challenges of Covid, and the adoption of the Sirius Arts Centre as a restoration project.

I look forward to working with our committed professional team, led by our Executive Director Donough Cahill, the Board of the IGF and our Chapters, Committees and Members in Ireland, the UK and US to realise the objectives of our founding members - to promote Ireland's built heritage, historic gardens, and decorative arts.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, 2024

Donough Cahil

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 through 2024. Central to the delivery of these were the Society's Scholarship Programme, Planning Policy & Buildings-at-Risk Programme, Education Programme, its support of conservation projects, and its membership events programmes. These are delivered through the work of the Society's board, committees and staff with their wide-ranging scope illustrated in this section of the Annual Report.



5.1 Scholarship Programme

5.1.1 Irish Architectural & Decorative Studies

The Irish Georgian Society's journal reflects the organisation's wide remit and is concerned not just with the Georgian architecture but embraces the entire spectrum of Ireland's post medieval buildings and its special need for protection, interpretation, and understanding. Volume XXVI of the journal was edited by Dr David Fleming and saw the publication of the following articles:

Article

- Bruce M.S. Campbell, *Early Georgian elegance: Henry, Baron Ferrard, and the remodelling of Beaulieu House, County Louth*
- Patrick Bowe, *Thomas Leggett (fl. 1740-1802), landscape gardener*
- Niamh NicGhabhann, *Edges, borders, and corners: the Whitefriar Street church and early 19th-century Catholic architecture*
- Eileen Black, *Hugh Frazer (1793-1880): Belfast's first landscape painter of note and early arts campaigner*
- William Laffan, *Samuel Beckett, John Joseph Slattery and Jane Austen's niece*
- David A. Fleming, *Critiquing Irish art and artists: Truepenny's critique of the Society of Artists' exhibition, 1773*

Book reviews

- *Looking it up in Pevsner: reflections on The Buildings of Ireland series* by Tadhg O'Keefe
- *The Maxwells of Finnebrogue and the gentry of County Down c. 1610-c. 1960* by A.P.W. Malcomson
- *Landscape Design & Revolution in Ireland and the United States, 1688-1815* by Finola O'Kane
- *Townley Hall - Francis Johnston's Neo-Classical Masterpiece* by Robert O'Byrne et al
- *Shadows + Reflections: The Irish National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge*, Annie Dibble and Angela Rolfe (eds)
- *The early residential buildings of Trinity College Dublin; architecture, financing, people* by R.A. Somerville

5.1.2 Desmond Guinness Scholarship

The Desmond Guinness Scholarship was established in 1996 to mark the departure of Desmond Guinness as President of the Irish Georgian Society. It is awarded annually 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 it is intended primarily for applicants who are not yet established at an advanced professional level in research or publication of visual arts.

The Desmond Guinness Scholarship 2024 was awarded to Ben Casey, a second year PhD candidate at Maynooth University's Department of History, where he is writing his thesis, '*Picturing the professions: representations of the Irish professional classes, 1760-1830*' which examines how members of the professions were portrayed in visual sources and text. By examining how members of the professional class were portrayed - be it in portraiture, graphic satire or text, Ben's research endeavours to reconstruct contemporary perceptions and attitudes towards this significant strata of Irish society.

5.1.3 John Maiben Gilmartin Prize 2024

The John Maiben Gilmartin Prize comprises a bursary of up to €5,000 to support early career scholars in researching Irish art, architectural and designed landscape history, and culture and society in Ireland of the long eighteenth century.

Dr Priscilla Sonnier was the inaugural winner of this prize for researching gender patronage and 'improvement', and the socio-cultural evolution of Irish portraiture during the Ascendancy period. The bursary assisted with travelling costs to the Yale Centre of British Art, New Haven and the John Rylands Library, University of Manchester.

5.2 Planning Policy and Buildings-at-Risk Programme

Through the work of its Architectural, Conservation and Planning Committee (ACPC), the Irish Georgian Society works as a champion for buildings and sites of significant architectural and historical importance. The ACPC meets regularly throughout the year and its members prepare informed, constructive submissions on issues of concern. Following is a selection of submissions made during 2023.

5.2.1 Planning submissions

- Congregational Church, Inchicore Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
- Nos. 3 & 4 Great George's Street, Waterford
- Proposed '3FM Project', Dublin port
- Molyneux Home, Dublin 6
- Hotel at 73 Lwr Baggot St. Dublin 2
- Westport House & Estate, Westport Demesne, Westport, Co. Mayo
- Carpark, Castletown Demesne, Co. Kildare
- Universal access works to the Mansion House, Dublin 2
- Hotel development on site bounded by Mount Street Upper to the northeast, James's Place East to the southwest and, Herbert Street to the southeast
- Proposed Road Development comprising of the N2 Slane By-Pass and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme
- Housing development at Portnason, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal

5.2.2 Policy submissions

- Re. Project Ireland 2040: Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage - Statement of Strategy for the period 2024 - 2026

5.3 Conservation Education Programme

The Irish Georgian Society promotes traditional building skills and best conservation practice through holding seminars, exhibitions and lecture series, 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 points are available for members of relevant professional institutions attending the seminars. In 2024 this Programme was supported by the Heritage Council and by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

5.3.1 Conserving your Dublin Period House, March to May 2024

Thirteen one-hour in person and online talks providing an introduction to the history and significance and care and conservation of Dublin's period houses.

- *Dublin's Domestic Architecture: its historic stylistic evolution* by **Charles Duggan**
- *Protected Structure Policy and Legislation* by **Jacqui Donnelly**
- *Maintenance and Controlling Damp in your Period House* by **Frank Keohane**
- *Sensitively Extending your Protected Structure* by **Mary McDonald & Niamh Kiernan**.
- *Historic Ironwork: its history, significance and conservation* by **Ali Davey**
- *Historic Doors & Staircases: their history and conservation* by **Peter Clarke**
- *Taking Care of Traditional Roofs and their features*, by **Nicola Matthews**
- *History and Conservation of Bricks* by **Susan Roundtree**
- *Importance of Lime & Historic Pointing Techniques in Dublin* by **Grainne Shaffrey**
- *Historic Windows: their history, significance and conservation* by **Dr Nessa Roche**
- *Energy Performance & Protected Structures: planning & grants*, **Carl Raftery**
- *Historic Decorative Plasterwork: its history & conservation* by **Andrew Smith**.
- *Disaster Management Prevention & Preparedness & Insurance Considerations* by **Margaret Quinlan & Paul Collins**.

5.3.2 Offaly's Heritage Buildings Show, June 2024



For one weekend the Georgian town of Birr became a one-stop destination for owners in need of accurate, impartial, and free advice on caring and repairing for their old building. The exhibition was of particular relevance to those living in Protected Structure or buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas, however attendance also benefited owners of all traditionally built buildings, including vernacular structures.

Demonstrations were delivered by the conservation experts and presented an opportunity to see over two dozen craftspeople actively demonstrate key traditional building skills needed for the conservation of old buildings including: sash window repairs, stained glass & fanlight conservation, stone carving, dry stonewall construction, use of lime-based mortars and hemp, brick pointing, decorative plasterwork; ironwork, slate roofing, thatching, gilding, sign writing and wallpaper making, to name a few. In tandem with the demonstrations there were free hourly conservation talks delivered by the acknowledged authorities in the Birr Theatre & Arts Centre. Additionally, as part of Cruinniú na nÓg children's festival of youth, a series of six children's craft workshops were held.

5.3.3 Picturesque Designed Landscapes of Kerry: Where Art embraces Nature, Sept 2024

The IGS partnered with Kerry County Council and Cairde Choláiste Íde Teo in delivering a one-day seminar which formed part of Kerry Architecture Festival 2024. This took place in Coláiste Íde and explored the designed landscapes and gardens of Kerry: their history & conservation. Speakers and topic included:

- *NIAH inventory of historic gardens and designed landscapes of Kerry*, **Des Byrne**

- *The tourists' experience of visiting the lakes and landscapes of Killarney in the late 18th and early 19th centuries*, **Dr Vandra Costello**
- *Exploring our roots: Heritage Trees of County Kerry*, **Tom Dillon**
- *Nurserymen and landscape design in County Kerry*, **Dr David Fleming**
- *Room with a view: Burnham House's designed landscape*, **Dr Victoria McCarthy**
- *Tour of Burnham House's garden*, **Mícheál Ó Coileáin**
- *Isaac Weld's tours and landscapes of Kerry and the United States, 1795-1820*, **Professor Finola O'Kane**
- *Big House Pastimes: Three Centuries of Sport in Irish Parks and Gardens*, **Terence Reeves-Smyth**

5.3.4 Depicting Dublin: understanding Dublin's architecture, urban morphology & social history (Oct/Nov 2024)

The Irish Georgian Society, in partnership with Dublin City Council's Heritage Office, presented a series of thematic talks which explored Dublin's architecture, urban morphology and social history through the examination of early maps, prints, drawings and photographs. Weekly talks were held in the City Assembly House and online on the following topics:

- *Maps and the story of Dublin*, **Dr Joseph Brady**
- *From Speed to Rocque: mapping early modern Dublin, 1610-1756*, **Prof. Colm Lennon**
- *Malton's Dublin Prints: picking through the details*, **Graham Hickey**
- *Georgian Dublin in Maps*, **Rob Goodbody**
- *Two Cities, Two Maps: John Rocque's London and Dublin compared*, **Dr John Montague**
- *Hugh Douglas Hamilton's The Cries of Dublin (1760) Revisited*, **William Laffan**
- *Dublin in Ordnance Survey Maps*, **Paul Ferguson**
- *City Views: Art, Architecture and Dublin's Painters*, **Dr Kathryn Milligan**
- *Finding Dublin in the photographic archive: an exploration of the city's Dublin's architectural heritage through historic photographs*, **Dr Orla FitzPatrick**
- *19th century Bird's Eye Views of Dublin: where Art and Mapping meet*, **Arran Henderson**

5.3.5 Architectural Conservation & Original Drawing Awards



The IGS Architectural Conservation & Original Drawing Awards were launched in 2011 with the aim of encouraging excellence in the area of conservation and to celebrate conservation professionals and practitioners responsible for projects of merit. Through support from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Awards were presented in two categories in 2024:

Category 1: Award for a Conservation Project in Ireland by architects, building surveyors, contractors, engineers and other professionals involved in the conservation of historic buildings on the island of Ireland.

- **Joint Winners:**
 - **McKee Barracks, Dublin**; architect: Taylor McCarney Architects; contractor: Nolans Group; client: Department of Defence
 - **Bank Buildings, Belfast**; architect: Hall Black Douglas Architects; contractor: Bennet Construction Ltd.; client: Primark Stores Ltd.

- Highly Commended:
 - 14 Clarendon Street, Dublin; architect: Shaffrey Architects; contractor: Tolmac Construction Ltd.
- Commended:
 - The Bungalow, Dromineer, Co. Tipperary; architect: LOTTs Architecture and Urbanism; contractor: G-Construction; client: Mary Spreng-Courtney & Daniel Spreng
 - Ardgillan Vinery & Propagation House, Dublin; architect: de Blacam and Meagher Architects; contractor: Lambstongue; client: Fingal County Council.

Category 2: Award for an original architectural (non-CAD) drawing relating to an historic building/structure, in Ireland.

- Winner:
 - The Lion Gate, Mote Park by Ciaran Nolan
- Highly Commended:
 - Tullamore Capriccio by Fergal MacCabe
 - Scottish Provident Building by Alex Peacock

5.4 IGS Conservation projects 2024

5.4.1 Conservation Grants Programme

Through the support of IGS London, the Homan Potterton Fund and the IGS Cork Chapter, conservation grants amounting to €47,900 were pledged to twenty-one projects:



Headfort House, Kells, Co. Meath

Works supported: Sash window repairs to garden front
Grant pledged: €1,000



Ballintemple House, Garvagh, Co. Derry

Works supported: roof repairs
Grant pledged: €1,400



Lambay Island, Co. Dublin

Works supported: Repairs to external doors and gates
Grant pledged: €1,500



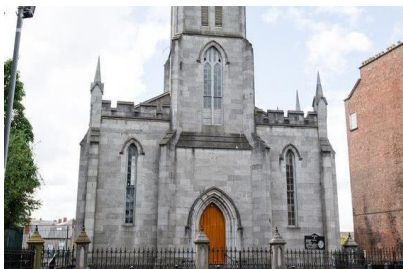
Lord Annaly Monument, Tashinny, Co Longford
 Works supported: Consolidation of sculpture base.
 Grant pledged: €2,000



Toberfeckin House, Co. Sligo
 Works supported: Pediment repairs
 Grant pledged: €2,000



Killyon Manor, C. Meath
 Works supported: roof repairs to ballroom
 Grant pledged: €2,500



St Michael's Church , Pery Square, Limerick
 Works supported: parapet repairs
 Grant pledged: €2,500



Clonalis House, Co. Roscommon
 Works supported: window repairs
 Grant pledged: €2,500



Fiddown Church, Co Kilkenny
 Works supported: Repairs to roof and rainwater goods
 Grant pledged: €2,500



Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, Co. Cork
Works supported: underpinning of loggia
Grant pledged: €3,000



Kildrought House, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
Works supported: repairs to garden front windows
Grant pledged: €3,000



Annaghmore House, Co. Sligo
Works supported: window repairs
Grant pledged: €3,000



Bantry House, Bantry, Co. Cork
Works supported: Roof repairs and doors to basement
Grant pledged: €3,000

5.4.2 Homan Potterton Conservation Grants Fund



Kilsharvan House, Bellewstown, Co. Meath
Works supported: window repairs
Grant pledged: €3,000



Larchill Arcadian Gardens, Co. Meath
Works supported: repair to gothic windows
Grant pledged: €1,000



Headfort House, Kells, Co. Meath
 Works supported: sash window repairs
 Grant pledged: €3,000



Killyon Manor, Co. Meath
 Works supported: roof repairs to ballroom
 Grant pledged: €3,000

5.4.3 Cork Chapter Grants



Ivy House, Listowel, Co. Kerry
 Works supported: damp control
 Grant pledged: €1,000



Myrtle Grove, Youghal, Co. Cork
 Works supported: window repairs
 Grant pledged: €3,000



Bantry House, Bantry, Co. Cork
 Works supported: Roof repairs and doors to basement
 Grant pledged: €3,000

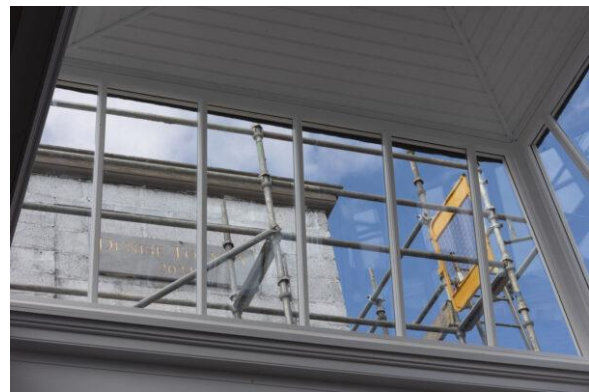


Jamesbrook House, Midelton, Co. Cork
 Works supported: repair of porch windows
 Grant pledged: €1,000

5.5 Sirius Arts Centre restoration project



In an exciting collaboration and through essential support from its American members, the Irish Georgian Society is working with the Sirius Arts Centre in restoring the former clubhouse of the Royal Cork Yacht Club in Cobh with the goal of reinstating significant lost architectural elements and revitalising and enhancing its role as a vibrant centre of cultural activity. In 2024, the works programme saw the reinstatement of a magnificent roof lantern in the central gallery space and the reconstruction of two chimney stacks that had been removed some decades ago. The Society also supported essential underpinning works that have secured the building from subsidence issues it has faced since the mid-20th century.



5.6 Members' Events Programme 2024

Walking tours & visits

- Wed 10th Jan: Walking Tour 'St. Audoen's Church...' with Arran/Dublin Decoded
- Wed 21st Feb: Walking Tour 'Wide Streets Commissioners...' with Dublin Decoded
- Wed 20th Mar: Walking Tour 'Ranelagh...' with Arran/Dublin Decoded
- Apr: Morning visit to Casino Marino
- Wed 10th July: Walking Tour 'Temple Bar' with Arran of Dublin Decoded
- Wed 18th Sept: Walking Tour 'Dublin's ancient and vanished churches'
- Wed 11th Dec: Walking tour with Arran Henderson to the Chester Beatty Library

Lectures

- Tue 16th Jan: Lecture 'The best address in town: Henrietta Stree' Dr Melanie Hayes
- Tue 30th Jan: Lecture 'Michael Healy, 1873-1941 ...' with Dr David Caron
- Tue 20th Feb: Lecture 'Spectral Mansions ...' with Dr Timothy Murtagh
- Tue 5th Mar: Lecture 'Ireland's graphic heritage...' with Dee Maher Ring
- Tue 19th Mar: Lecture 'Huguenot Refugee Art and Culture...' with Dr Tessa Murdoch
- Tue 9th Apr: Lecture 'Watercolour World' with Fred Hohler
- Sat 15th June: Private Tour of Iveagh House, Dublin
- Sat 10th August: Casino Marino Visit (Member-only event)
- Tues 3rd Sept: New Members Lecture: 'City Assembly House - a Georgian gem'
- Wed, 27th Nov: Lecture 'The Irish Country House: A New Vision', with Robert O'Byrne

Day tours

- Wed 10th Apr: Curator's tour Malahide Castle / Newbridge House with Cathal Dowd Smith
- Tues 18th June: Maynooth South Campus Buildings Tour with Mary McGaver
- Sat 20th July: Houses and Gardens of Leinster Day Tour with Pat Murray
- Sat 14th September: Fine Houses of Louth Day Tour with Pat Murray

Parties & special events

- Tue 13th Feb: Wine Tasting at City Assembly House
- Sat 29th June: IGS Summer Party at Shankill Castle, Co. Kilkenny
- Sat 31st August: IGS Patrons and Benefactors lunch, Rahinston House, Co. Meath.
- Wed 11th September: IGS Annual Meeting
- Sat, 14th December 2024: IGS Christmas Party, Deanery of St. Patrick's Cathedral

International tours

- February: members' tour to Venice with Dan Calley
- April: members' tour to Romania with Harriet Landseer
- September: members' tour to Dresden with Harriet Landseer
- November: members' tour to Malta with Harriet Landseer

5.7 Chapters & YIG events 2024

Birr/Midlands Chapter

- March 22nd: social evening at the New Order District Restaurant in Syngefield, Birr.
- April: meeting with a presentation on Georgian Birr by Margaret Hogan
- IGS Chapters' Plenary Meeting held on April 29th, at the home of Sir David Davies
- May: event entitled "Lime Mortars for Homeowners of Vernacular Buildings"
- June 12th: visit to Birr Castle from Friends of the Hunt Museum in Limerick
- June 16th - 17th: Birr hosted the "Offaly's Heritage Building Show" at the Birr Theatre and Arts Centre on Oxmantown Mall
- August: Birr Vintage and Arts Festival: Irish Architectural Foundation exhibition "The Reason of Towns", Valerie Mulvin.
- August 22nd: National Heritage Week talk on 'Offaly's Vernacular Heritage and how the State is Helping' by Dr Barry O'Reilly, in Johns Hall.
- Dec: Christmas Party

Cork Chapter

- 9th March: walking tour with Kevin Hurley on the North Mall and Pope's Quay.
- 27th April: visit to Cappoquin House and Dromana, Co. Waterford.
- 25th May: visit to Tralee including a presentation on Denny Street, by Victoria McCarthy, Conservation Officer, Kerry County Council.
- 15th June: tour to Clogheen Co. Tipperary including visits to Glengarra Mountain Lodge, Burntcourt Castle and the remains of Shanbally Castle
- 24th July: visit to the Woodhouse Estate, Stradbally, Co. Waterford
- 14th Sept: visit to the Curraghmore Estate and Portlaw, Co. Waterford
- 20th Nov: Christmas event that included a tour of St Finbar's Cathedral, a visit to the Crawford College of Art and Design and lunch at the River Lee Hotel

Limerick Chapter

- 1st Oct: lecture by Randal Hodkinson on 'Limerick in old, unseen photographs' in Limerick's historic LPYMA building.
- Nov: lecture by Mr Peter Carroll on "Fundamental Base - the foundations of Newtown Pery, Limerick".
- Dec: lecture by Dr Susan Roundtree on "Brick in Irish buildings and our Brickmaking history".

Young Irish Georgians

- 23rd Feb: visit to private home in Ballsbridge, D4
- 25th May: walking tour of the bank architecture of College Green with Dr Michael O'Neill
- 15th June: day tour to Russborough House, Co. Wicklow
- 24th Oct: Annual Heritage Social at the Irish Architectural Archive

5.8 City Assembly House exhibitions 2024

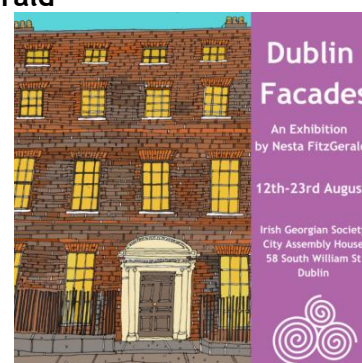
5.8.1 Portrait Miniatures and the Irish Country House: the Edmund Corrigan Collection

Held in the Daniel O'Connell Room in October 2024, this exhibition was the culmination of a multi-year research project into the portrait miniature in eighteenth-century Ireland and specifically the rich web of associations linking the miniature to the Irish country house. It coincided with a major publication on the subject by Kevin V. Mulligan published by the IGS as part of its commitment to fostering the study of the decorative arts in Ireland. The catalyst that inspired this book and exhibition was the hugely generous donation by the late Edmund Corrigan of a large collection of portrait miniatures to the IGS, which have been put on public display in Castletown, County Kildare and Doneraile Court, County Cork.



5.8.2 Dublin Facades An Exhibition of Prints by Nesta FitzGerald

As part of Heritage Week 2024, the IGS hosted an exhibition by celebrated illustrator Nesta FitzGerald in the historic Daniel O'Connell room which featured contemporary prints celebrating some of the finest examples of Dublin's architectural heritage.



5.8.3 Third party exhibitions in the CAH

The following third party exhibitions were held in the CAH during 2024:

- Exhibition of photography by Ishmael Claxton, 7th-10th June, Knight of Glin room.
- Exhibition of prints by Niamh Horan and Rachel Burke, 13th-17th June, Knight of Glin room.
- Exhibition by Nesta FitzGerald, 13th-22nd July, Daniel O'Connell room.
- Exhibition by graphic design company Vermillion, 12th-21st September, Knight of Glin and Daniel O'Connell room.
- Christie's exhibition viewing, 23rd and 24th October, Knight of Glin room.
- Soul Noir Exhibition, 30th October - 1st November, Knight of Glin and Daniel O'Connell room.
- Exhibition by Geraldine Carton, 7th-17th November, Knight of Glin room.
- Exhibition by Victoria Mary Clarke, 21st-25th November, Knight of Glin room.
- Exhibition by the Glass Society of Ireland, 12th-20th December, Daniel O'Connell room.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Charlie Sweeney

On the following pages, you will find details of the financial results of the Irish Georgian Foundation for 2024.

Copies of the full financial statements 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 earned an operating surplus of €42,480. The surplus from operations for 2024 was greater than in 2023 and more than expected this time last year due to receipt of €39,176 from the US Richard Andersen bequest. Letting the basement area contributed income of €77,500. Donations and a Heritage Council grant of €50,000 provided revenue of €106,175 in addition to the US bequest. Despite a small increase in overhead costs, the net result for 2024 was favourable due to additional revenue from patron members' subscriptions, increased income tax refunds for donations, a surplus derived from the Edmund Corrigan publication in addition to the bequest referred to already. €6,306 of designated funds was used on maintenance costs of the CAH building and a matching amount was transferred from the general fund to the designated fund to restore it to €300,000. Adding the 2024 surplus to our general reserves brings it to €241,792 at the financial year end.

We hope that a strategic review currently being implemented will assist in improving finances in the longer term. Fortunately, the Foundation has the benefit of cash reserves which we hope will sustain operations through any adverse economic times. Fundraising efforts need to continue, and the Foundation and Society are positive about its prospects for a better economic environment in the longer term.

Wishing you remain well.

Charlie Sweeney



6.1 Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2024

		2024 €	2023 €
INCOME	Note		
Irish Georgian Society Members' subscriptions	1	126,224	117,507
Donations, bequests and other funds raised	2	145,351	105,020
Income tax recovered on certain donations		11,340	6,798
Net income from operations		230,624	216,340
Deposit interest and investment income		1,500	1,025
Grant amortisation		86,357	86,357
Government VAT compensation scheme		315	456
Foreign exchange gains		6,632	=
Total income		614,243	533,503
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries and pension costs		(332,146)	(324,634)
Operational expenses and information technology		(76,329)	(85,990)
Office rent and storage		(1,000)	(1,000)
Publications, postage and stationery		(34,846)	(30,419)
Bank interest and charges		(9,584)	(10,805)
Professional fees		(9,883)	(8,318)
Motor, travelling and fund-raising expenses		(12,743)	(11,786)
Insurance		(4,473)	(6,795)
Depreciation of & loss on disposals of fixed assets		(89,030)	(87,808)
Bad debts		(591)	-
Total expenditure		(570,625)	(567,555)
Expenses (absorbed by)/allocated to restricted/designated projects		(1,138)	37,934
Surplus for year (general funds)		42,480	3,882

6.2 Notes to the income & Expenditure Account, 31 December 2024

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 and the Charities Regulatory Authority 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

	2024	2023
	€	€
Ireland	90,596	92,181
United Kingdom	16,765	15,926
United States of America	18,862	9,400
	<u>126,224</u>	<u>117,507</u>

	Number	Number
Paid active membership figures at 31 December are	1,593	1,562

(II) DONATIONS, BEQUESTS, AND OTHER FUNDS RAISED

	2024	2023
	€	€
Richard Andersen US bequest	39,176	-
Private donations	1,175	40
Department of Housing, Local Government	-	-
	50,000	50,000
Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust	10,000	10,000
Patrons and other members' donations	45,000	44,980
	<u>145,351</u>	<u>105,020</u>

In addition to the government support for core activity received in 2024 referred to above, the Foundation received €43,471 from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. Of this €33,471 was to support the Conservation Educational Programme and €10,000 was for the Journal publishing. Offaly County Council provided a subvention of €22,199 for the TBS exhibition. Kerry County Council provided a subvention of €3,950 for the Kerry Designed Gardens seminar.

Funds received for projects and exhibitions are carried forward until such time as a project is completed or the exhibition takes place. All such planned projects/events were completed in 2024 and were fully funded. With donors' permission, any surpluses were designated for other projects for 2024 and beyond.

Funds of €64,050 were raised for the Edmund Corrigan miniature book project of which €8,328 was spent in 2023 and €52,666 was spent in 2024. Initial funds of €7,380 were raised in 2023 for the Sirius Arts Centre and after successful further fundraising of €261,261 in 2024, significant works saw the reinstatement of key architectural elements and underpinning works. Further significant funds have been raised for a programme of works in 2025.

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

designated fund. In 2018 and prior years €250,000 from this fund was used for fundraising and development which had been approved by the Board. Due to the surplus earnings for 2022 the Board agreed to transfer €50,000 to designated funds for the purposes of financing future maintenance of the City Assembly House building thereby increasing the balance to €300,000 on this fund at 31 December 2022. In 2023, €6,306 of the designated funds was used on maintenance costs of the CAH building. Due to the favourable surplus earned in 2024 a matching amount was transferred from general funds to reinstate the maintenance fund at €50,000 at 31 December 2024

(III) GRANTS PAID

Since 2014 the Foundation has operated a small grants programme with funding from IGS London, IGS Inc. in the USA and more recently from the late Homan Potterton and the IGS Cork Chapter. The following grants were made from restricted funds:

Programme year	2024	2023
	€	€
Fund designated for programme year plus unspent from prior years	12,230	36,000
	-	-
Grant payments for approved projects in current year	(12,230)	(36,000)
Balance unspent at 31 December	-	-

Details of the projects funded are given in another section of this report.

(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. Restoration works on the exhibition room and universal access were completed in May 2018, in time for the “Society of Artists” major art exhibition in June 2018. The basement space has been sub-let since October 2019. It generated €77,500 (2023: €65,625) income in 2024.

The restoration work received an award from the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) for the best re-use of a building in 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 owned by the Foundation in Castletown House and in other houses had a valuation of €1,528,589 as at 31 December 2024 (2023: €1,528,589) which includes a collection of miniature portraits, 18th century book-bindings and a collection of John Nankivell drawings. There were no items donated to the Foundation in 2024.



City Assembly House, 58 South William Street, Dublin 2
www.igs.ie - t. +353 (0)1 6798675 - e. info@igs.ie