



Irish
Georgian
Society

LONDON EVENTS – AUTUMN & WINTER 2017-18

THE CONSERVATION GRANTS SCHEME

Dear Members,

We are delighted to announce the fourth successful year of the Conservation Grants Scheme, which helps owners of historic structures to fund necessary works. The Irish Georgian Society London has made this scheme possible through funds raised from its activities and members' generous bequests.

Although this was due to be the final year of the scheme, its importance is very much recognised and we are, therefore, hoping to extend the scheme beyond 2017, subject to available funding.

This year the €50,000 available funding was spread between nine successful projects. The projects are a particularly interesting group, including the conservation of a memorial column, the renewal of unusual decorative Cloisonné (enamelled copper) wall panels, and the restoration of a handsome Georgian doorcase. We are also pleased to provide further support to a local community group who are responsible for the upkeep of a graveyard with a c.1820 chapel.

Successful applicants this year included: Tea Lane Cemetery, Celbridge, Co. Kildare; Stradbally Hall (late 18th century; remodelled in 1868), Co. Laois; Old Parochial House (1868), Monkstown, Co. Cork; O'Brien Column (1858), Liscannor, Co. Clare; St Michael & All Angels (1883), Sallins, Co. Kildare; St John's Church (c.1810-1820), Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; The Church of Saint John the Evangelist (c. 1815), Monasterevin, Co Kildare; Town Hall (1863), Mountmellick, Co. Laois; Ballinrobe House (c.1740), and Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.

Thank you to all our London Members for making this scheme possible. We very much hope that we can extend the scheme beyond 2017.

Ashleigh Murray

TOUR OF MANSION HOUSE

TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

We have a special opportunity to visit Mansion House in the heart of the City of London, the official residence of the Lord Mayor of London. It was not until the early 18th century that the architect and surveyor, George Dance the Elder, was employed to design and build a permanent residence for the Lord Mayor.

This imposing Palladian-style City palace has an impressive grand portico approached by flanking flights of steps. Entertainment rooms were located on the first and second floors, including an open courtyard (later covered) and the great banqueting room, the Egyptian Hall. The building's grandeur was designed to reflect the City of London's position as one of the world's leading financial and trading centres. The first stone was laid in 1739, with work finally completed in 1758.

Following our tour we will have lunch in the nearby Royal Exchange Grand Café. The Royal Exchange was originally founded in the 16th century as a centre for commerce for the City of London. The building has been destroyed twice and rebuilt, with the current building designed by William Tite in the 1840s. We will have a two-course meal in this impressive Grade I-listed Victorian building, with its central courtyard originally designed for merchants and tradesmen to carry out business.

Our group will meet at 10.45am at the main entrance to Mansion House. The guided tour starts at 11.00am, lasting for one hour, followed by lunch. Tickets cost £35 per person and include lunch.

If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form and cheque, before **Monday 4th September**, together with an email address or SAE, to Ashleigh Murray, 12 Fairline Court, 2 Oakwood Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 6PJ (Tel: 07837766974; Email: ashleigh_mur@hotmail.com). Full details will be sent to those attending closer to the event.

DAY VISIT TO CASTLE GORING AND BIGNOR PARK

SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

This autumn we have a treat in store for the London Chapter as we will be visiting two very special private houses in Sussex, not generally open to the public for tours, and only occasionally open to groups like the Irish Georgian Society.

Castle Goring has recently been restored by its celebrated owner Lady Colin Campbell. Her Ladyship is a Jamaican born British writer, socialite and media personality. Lady Colin's biography of Diana Princess of Wales was on The New York Times bestseller list in the 1990s. More recently, she has appeared in documentaries and reality shows. The Grade I listed Castle Goring was built by the Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley's grandfather in 1797-8. Like Castle Ward, the house has a Palladian elevation (designed by Biagio Rebecca) and a Gothic elevation even though both were built at the same time. Lady Colin Campbell will personally take us on a tour of her house. There will be time to tour the gardens before departing for Bignor Park.

We will have lunch at The Cricketers pub in Duncton, Petworth. Viscount Mersey has very kindly agreed to show us around the elegantly furnished principal rooms of his family home Bignor Park. The 5th Viscount took over the running of the estate in 2010 and has restored the stables, gardens and parkland. Bignor Park is an extraordinarily pretty Regency house built by John Hawkins 1826-29 to the design of Henry Harrison. There will also be time to tour the gardens before departing.

Tickets for this day trip cost £75 per person (£80 for non-members) and the ticket price covers coach travel to/from London, entry to the houses, and a two course pub lunch (but not drinks), including tea/coffee. Please note that both houses are unable to offer tea/coffee. The coach will leave from the V&A Museum at 8.45am. The coach is expected to return to London by around 7pm.

Numbers are limited for this trip and will be on a first come first served basis. If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form and cheque, together with an email address or SAE to Stuart Blakley, Lavender's Blue, 21 Webb's Road, London SW11 6RU (stuart.blakley@taylorwimpey.com) before **Monday 25th September**. Full details including menu choices will be sent to those attending closer to the event. Priority will be given to members, but guests will be welcome if there is space.

LECTURE – COTTAGE ORNÉ

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

The Cottage Orné is a uniquely picturesque architectural genre which flourished in the British Isles at the end of 18th and the start of the 19th century. Renowned architectural and garden historian and IGS member Roger White will discuss cottages ornés, to coincide with the publication of his book, *Cottages ornés: the Charms of the Simple Life*, the first ever study of these charming buildings. In a richly illustrated lecture he will cover their architectural history: leading architects like Robert Adam, John Nash and John Soane all produced cottage designs. Cottages ornés came in all shapes and sizes, from the very grand like Royal Lodge at Windsor to labourers' dwellings that can still be seen in the countryside. Roger will also put them in their social and cultural context. He will include some good Irish examples, of which Swiss Cottage in Cahir is the best known.

Roger White is an erudite and entertaining lecturer, with an encyclopaedic knowledge of country houses in the UK and Ireland. He was secretary of the Georgian Group for many years. Since then, he has had an eclectic career encompassing leadership of architectural tours in UK, Ireland and abroad, book reviews, a column in a glossy magazine and authorship of articles and books.

Courtesy of the conservation architectural practice Donald Insall Associates, our first Autumn lecture will be held in their Central London office, 12 Devonshire Street, London, W1G 7AB. Doors open at 6.30pm, with wine served on the first floor. The lecture starts at 7.00pm and will last approximately one hour, with a further 20 minutes for questions. Copies of the book will also be available for purchase.

The lecture costs £15 per person (YIGs £10). If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form and cheque, together with an email address or SAE, to Robert Jennings, 28 Elmfield Road, London, SW17 8AL (robertbjennings@btinternet.com).

YIG WALKING TOUR OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE

SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER

Join the Young Irish Georgians for a walking tour of the Old Royal Naval College and gardens, at the heart of Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site. The tour will be given by William Palin, Conservation Director at the ORNC, and former Director of SAVE Britain's Heritage, and will include a view of the Chapel of St Peter and St Paul, a Neoclassical masterpiece by James 'Athenian' Stuart and William Newton, and featuring a Samuel Green organ and an altarpiece painted by Benjamin West. It is one of Britain's finest 18th-century interiors.

The tour will finish with entry to the Painted Hall, Britain's largest painted ceiling, which is currently under-going restoration works [please note: at the time of print, the Painted Ceiling is scheduled to be accessible by late October]. Its ceiling and wall decorations were conceived and executed by the British artist Sir James Thornhill between 1707 and 1726 at the pivotal moment when the United Kingdom was created and became a dominant power in Europe.

There will be an optional lunch after the tour at the nearby Old Brewery Pub.

The tour will cost £15 (£25 for standard members). If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form & cheque with an email address or SAE to Lucy O'Connor, 244 Randolph Avenue, W9 1PF (Email: lucyliz89@yahoo.co.uk).

LECTURE – BELLAMONT FOREST

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

Our second lecture of the season will be given by Bryan Mills about Bellamont Forest, Co. Cavan, described by Mark Bence-Jones as 'one of the most perfect examples of a Palladian villa.' In 1981, Bryan Mills retired from the successful international IT services company he had started in 1964, and with his Irish wife and four teenage children moved to Ireland. Bryan will talk about Bellamont Forest, the 1728 Palladian villa designed by Edward Lovett Pearce, which he bought in 1981, and the pleasures and pains of owning, restoring (in part), and living in such a beautiful house. To add interest to the move, Bellamont is only 25 miles from Crossmaglen and, of course, 1981 was a period during the notorious hunger strikes.

Courtesy of the conservation architectural practice Donald Insall Associates, the lecture will be held in their Central London office, 12 Devonshire Street, London, W1G 7AB. Doors open at 6.30pm, with wine served on the first floor. The lecture starts at 7.00pm and will last approximately one hour, with a further 20 minutes for questions.

The lecture costs £15 per person (YIGs £10). If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form and cheque, together with an email address or SAE, to Ashleigh Murray, 12 Fairline Court, 2 Oakwood Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 6PJ (Tel: 07837766974; Email: ashleigh_mur@hotmail.com).

DINNER AT THE RAC CLUB

TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER

The pre-Christmas Club dinner has become a firm fixture in the London Chapter's annual calendar and this year promises to be no exception. Previous dinners have been held at Clubs such as the Reform, Cavalry & Guards, Garrick, Boodles, Brooks's, Oriental, Travellers, Carlton, the In & Out and the Turf - each one has been a sell-out. This year we will be dining at the RAC Club at 89 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HS, the heart of Clubland.

The RAC Club

The choice of this year's Club is particularly appropriate in view of the long-standing links that the London Chapter has had with the 20 Ghost Club and as 2018 will represent the 40th year of the annual collaboration between the two societies – a truly remarkable achievement.

The Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland (now the RAC) was founded in 1897 “as a Society of Encouragement for the motoring movement and the motor and allied industries in the British Empire”, moving into its newly completed premises in 1911.

After Rome and Venice had provided the architectural prototypes for the great mid-19th-century clubhouses in Pall Mall, it seems only natural that the early 20th century — the period of the 'Entente Cordiale' and the hôtels-de-luxe of M. César Ritz — should have turned to Paris for inspiration. The RAC certainly enriched the stylistic galaxy of Pall Mall by adding their substantial clubhouse, a polished essay in the late French Renaissance manner. Their building, moreover, marked an important stage in the development of clubhouses, for it contains not only the usual and traditional accommodation, but offers its members a large restaurant and recreational facilities, such as the swimming-bath, Turkish baths, a gymnasium and squash courts.

Planned in the Beaux-Arts tradition, with a front to Pall Mall that owes something to Jules Hardouin Mansart (Place Vendôme) and Jacques-Ange Gabriel (Place de la Concorde), and a front to Carlton Gardens that recalls a château by le Vau or François Mansart, the clubhouse was designed by the internationally famous firm of Mewès and Davis (in conjunction with E. Keynes Purchase). French carvers and blacksmiths were employed to give the exterior its authentically Parisian quality.

Angela Brady (Guest Speaker)

Each year we have a distinguished speaker and this year will be no exception. Angela Brady OBE is a Dublin born and educated architect who graduated from Dublin DIT school of architecture. Soon after graduating, she came to London and set up the award-winning private practice Brady Mallalieu Architects Ltd, with Robin Mallalieu. Their design studio specialises in contemporary sustainable architecture.

Angela was elected President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) (2011-2013). She reaches a wide public audience as a professional TV broadcaster, promoting architecture on TV and Radio, along with published articles in books, magazines and blogs, as well as running design workshops in schools and galleries as a STEMnet ambassador. She is also a Design Council CABE 'Built Environment Expert' and is currently President of the Architects Benevolent Society.

Angela co-wrote and co-presented with Dr Sandra O'Connell a four-part one-hour documentary TV series '*Designing Ireland*', a critical review of Architecture, Place and Craft, broadcast on RTÉ One in November 2015.

Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies

Dr. Finola O'Kane Crimmins MRIA will also be attending the Dinner. Finola is Associate Professor in Architecture at University College Dublin and Editor of *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*, *The Journal of the Irish Georgian Society*. She will be bringing over some complimentary copies of the latest IGS Journal for those attending the dinner.

Dinner (black tie) will be at 7.00pm for 7.30pm with carriages from 10.30pm. Tickets for the evening cost £96, which includes a three-course dinner with coffee, wine and port afterwards.

Please send the application form to Tim Bacon, Ramsden Farm, Stone-cum-Ebony, Nr Tenterden, Kent TN30 7JB. Guests are welcome but priority will be given to members. If you would like to sit near another member then please complete the space on the application form and we will try to arrange the seating plan accordingly, but cannot guarantee being able to meet everyone's requirements.

As usual numbers are limited - and so places may well be at a premium. It is therefore recommended that you apply early.

LECTURE – BELFAST: AN ARCHIECTURAL HISTORY

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

Dr Paul Larmour is an architectural historian and former Reader in Architecture at Queen's University, Belfast. He is author of many books on Irish architecture and design, including *'Belfast: an Illustrated Architectural Guide'* (1987), *'Belfast City Hall: An Architectural History'* (2010), *'The Arts and Crafts Movement in Ireland'* (1992), and *'Free State Architecture'* (2002).

Larmour's forthcoming lecture for the Irish Georgian Society will focus on the architectural history of the great city of Belfast, with a particular focus on Sir Charles Lanyon and the Victorian era, and buildings such as the magnificent Baroque revival style Belfast City Hall, completed in 1906, following the award of city status to Belfast by Queen Victoria.

Sir Charles Lanyon, architect, engineer, and conservative MP for Belfast city, was closely associated with Belfast throughout his career. His influence and contribution during the late 19th century is evident throughout the whole of Northern Ireland.

Our Winter lecture will be held at Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street W.1. Doors open at 6.30pm, with wine served on the first floor. The lecture starts at 7.00pm and will last approximately one hour, with a further 20 minutes for questions.

The lecture costs £15 per person (YIGs £10). If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form and cheque, together with an email address or SAE, to Lucy O'Connor, Donald Insall Associates, 12 Devonshire Street, W1G 7AB. (Email: lucyliz89@yahoo.co.uk)

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARTY & EVENTS REVIEW

THURSDAY 15 MARCH

Our Saint Patrick's Day Party and Annual Events Review will take place on Thursday 15th of March at Lettsom House. Our evening will commence with an update on the Society's work in Ireland and the fourth-year projects funded by the Irish Georgian Society London through the Conservation Grants Scheme. We will also have an overview of the previous year's London events. Fabulous Feasts will then serve a two-course buffet supper.

This will be held at Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, W.1. Doors open at 6.30pm, with wine served on the first floor. The lectures will start at 7pm. The evening costs £45 per person and guests (non-members) are welcome.

If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form and cheque, together with an email address or SAE, to John Barber, The Barn, 5 Chambers Manor Mews, Epping Road, Epping Upland, Essex, CM16 6NZ (Tel 07956 609777; Email: johnbarber@lmkendon.co.uk).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BOOKING EVENTS

1. For any membership enquiries, please contact Roisin Lambe using the following details:

Postal address: The Irish Georgian Society, City Assembly House, 58 South William Street, Dublin 2 Ireland.

Telephone number: 00 353 (0)1 679 8675.

Email: roisin.lambe@igs.ie.

Website: www.igs.ie (www.igs.ie/about/london-chapter)

2. Please provide a separate application form and cheque for each event. A single cheque covering several events will not be accepted. Please ensure that application forms are fully completed and email addresses and telephone numbers clearly written. We have a preference for communication through email and request that members provide an email address rather than an SAE if possible. Please note that payment by cash is no longer acceptable, cheque only please.
3. Details of events will be sent to members about a week before the event. If you apply for an event which is fully booked, we will advise you as soon as we can after receiving your application, so you can make alternative arrangements.
4. Once we acknowledge your application we will have provided our venue with final numbers and any cancellations after this time will only receive a refund if we can replace you.
5. Please remember if you cancel your booking for an event, your place will be given away if there is a waiting list and we will be unable to re-offer you a place should you circumstances change. Unless requested to be returned to you at the time of cancelling, we will treat your cheque as a donation to the Society.
6. We recommend that all travellers have travel insurance cover.

TOUR OF MANSION HOUSE

TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Please reserve place(s) at £35 each

Name of member(s):

Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

Special dietary Requirements:

I enclose a cheque payable to **Irish Georgian Society London** for £

Please return with your cheque and an email address or SAE **before Monday 4th September** to Ashleigh Murray, 12 Fairline Court, 2 Oakwood Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 6PJ

(Tel: 07837766974; Email: ashleigh_mur@hotmail.com)

DAY TRIP TO CASTLE GORING & BIGNOR PARK

SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

Please reserve place(s) at £75 each (£80 non-members)

Name of member(s):

Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

Special dietary Requirements:

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Please return with your cheque and an email address or SAE by **Monday 25th September** to Stuart Blakley, Lavender's Blue, 21 Webb's Road, London, SW11 6RU

(Stuart.Blakley@taylorwimpey.com).

LECTURE - COTTAGE ORNÉ

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

Please reserve place(s) at £15 each (standard members) or £10 (YIG).

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Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

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(Email: robertbjennings@btinternet.com)

YIG WALKING TOUR OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE

SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER

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Name of member(s):

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DINNER AT THE RAC CLUB

TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Please reserve place(s) at £96 each.

Name of member(s):

Name of guest(s):

Postal address:

Email address or telephone No.

Special dietary Requirements:

I/we would like to be seated near:

I enclose a cheque payable to **Irish Georgian Society London** for £ (£96 per person)

Please return with your cheque and an email address or SAE to Tim Bacon, Ramsden Farm,
Stone-cum-Ebony, Kent TN30 7JB

(Tel: 01797 270 300; Email: streakybacon@ramsdenfarm.co.uk)

LECTURE – BELFAST: AN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

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Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

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SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARTY & EVENTS REVIEW

THURSDAY 15 MARCH

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Name of member(s):

Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

Special dietary requirements:

I enclose a cheque payable to **Irish Georgian Society London** for £

Please return with your cheque and an email address or SAE to John Barber, The Barn, 5 Chambers Manor Mews, Epping Road, Epping Upland, Essex, CM16 6NZ

(Tel: 07956 609777; Email: johnbarber@lmkendon.co.uk).