



Irish Georgian Society

LONDON CHAPTER EVENTS – SPRING & SUMMER 2016

VOTE OF THANKS AND NEW CHAIRPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear London Chapter Members,

I really want to thank you all for your most generous gift on my retirement as Chairman and, because of my increasing immobility I was unfortunately unable to attend the November Dinner to accept the gift in person [Desmond Barry did so on my behalf], this Mailing is the best way of doing so that. It has been a huge pleasure to serve as Chairman of the London Chapter for virtually 25 years and I have enjoyed it all, especially your wonderful company and support all that time. Your gift will be a constant and extremely happy reminder of you all, and all the various tours, visits, lectures and, of course, all the wonderful parties we've enjoyed together. Actually, your generosity has come in two parts. Many of you may know that I have been collecting Irish Georgian silver and glass for some years, so the exquisite silver sauceboat and matching circular sauce dish, with serving ladles, are now the stars of my collection. The beautiful c1820 Regency glass celery vase and the pair of glass rinsers of the same date sit perfectly with the Regency water jug that you and the 20-Ghost Club gave me after the Irish tour last May. So thank you all so very much indeed; you certainly know how to spoil me.

Of course I was sorry to retire but I felt I'd had my time and that I should hand over to a younger person. Robert Jennings kindly held the reins for a little while and now your new Chairperson will take over – and for the first time since the 1970s you'll have someone young – and Irish! Most of you already know Ashleigh Murray as she's been a Committee member, and a very useful one, since 2013. From Cork, she studied Architectural Technology, with a specialism in Conservation, at the Cork Institute of Technology. In 2009 she moved to Oxford to complete an MSc in Historic Building Conservation at Oxford Brookes. Following this, she undertook an MA in Eighteenth-Century Interiors and Decorative Arts in a combined course with the University of Buckingham and the Wallace Collection. She then went on to work as a Business Officer in the planning department of Historic England [formerly English Heritage], and has now worked for two and a half years as a Historic Buildings Advisor on the DIA Historic Buildings Consultancy team at the conservation architectural practice Donald Insall Associates. She has also been our liaison with Dublin in relation to the Small Grants Scheme for the past two years. Under her, the

future of the London Chapter is bright and assured. I had met Nick Thompson (the London Chairman from 1982 to 1990) when he joined the office of Donald Insall in 1974 so, interestingly, this leading firm of conservation architects has provided the Chapter's Chairperson for 33 years of its 42 years of existence.

So you are all aware of current developments, the financial affairs of the Chapter have been organised since the mid-1990s by two entities, the Irish Georgian Trust, a charity, and IGS London Chapter Ltd, a company. However, some time ago our accountant, Martin Connell, advised us that it would be more efficient to re-structure our affairs under one charitable company (limited by guarantee) which is now possible under current charity legislation. Our application for this, submitted by our solicitors in January, has been accepted by the Charity Commission, which will respond by early May. We hope the new company will then come into existence during the summer and Ashleigh will then become its CEO, and the Committee will become the Events Sub-Committee. As far as you members are concerned, however, this will make absolutely no difference.

I am so sorry that the slow recovery from my foot surgery still prevents me from attending the Annual St Patrick's Day Party and be able to thank you all in person for your generosity, which I deeply appreciate and will treasure always. Thank you all so very much indeed and I look forward to continuing to see you on future London events.

JOHN R REDMILL
March 2016

THANK YOU TO COLM OWENS

Dear London Chapter Members,

We are very sorry to announce that Colm Owens, our Events Organiser, has left the UK for an exciting new life in New York. Colm worked extremely hard to support the society for many years, being responsible for both managing and organising many of our events and doing an absolutely sterling job. As you know, the London Chapter Committee is entirely voluntary and Colm managed to balance a full time job with all the work he did for the society. For all the time and effort he put into the work for the society, we are extremely grateful. I know that our members will also be sad to see him leave; he was well liked and was always such a pleasure at events. We would like to wish Colm the very best of luck in this exciting new chapter of his life.

ASHLEIGH MURRAY
Chairperson
March 2016

WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY TOUR

SATURDAY 8 APRIL

We have arranged a special visit to the William Morris Gallery on Saturday 8th April. The William Morris Gallery is the only public gallery devoted to the life and legacy of William Morris, the Arts-and-Crafts designer, craftsman, and socialist. The gallery, owned and managed by Waltham Forest Council, originally opened in 1950 but underwent a major refurbishment in 2012.

The collections illustrate Morris's life, work and influence and include rugs, carpets, wallpapers, furniture, stained glass and painted tiles designed by Morris and also by Edward Burne-Jones, Philip Webb, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Ford Madox Brown. The gallery also holds a substantial collection of furniture, textiles, ceramics and glass by Morris's followers in the Arts and Crafts movement, which flourished from the 1880s to the 1920s.

Our group will receive a private curatorial tour of the gallery and the tour will offer an introduction to William Morris' life and work through key artworks on display. This will bring together Morris' varied interests in craft, politics and literature, as well as introducing his close collaborators. Our tour will also give special emphasis to the architectural history of this important Georgian house dating from 1744, and the reinstatement of its Georgian garden.

The tour costs £15 and includes tea and coffee. We will meet at 10.30am at the gallery café. The tour will start at 11am and will last for approximately 1.5 hours. If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form & cheque with an email address or SAE to Nick Sheaff 4 Framfield Road, Highbury Fields, London, N5 1UU (Tel: 07515496987; email: nicksheaff@virginmedia.com). The gallery is a 12-15 min walk from Walthamstow Central on the Victoria Line. Full details will be sent to those attending closer to the date.

TOUR IN CORNWALL WITH THE 20 GHOST CLUB

FRIDAY 6 TO MONDAY 9 MAY

Robert Jennings has arranged this year's joint tour with the 20 Ghost Club, visiting many of the wonderful country houses of Cornwall. The aristocracy and gentry of the county built a number of good houses, from the middle ages to the 19th century. A remarkably large number are still occupied by the families that built them. Equally remarkable are the parklands and gardens - the temperate climate means they should be showing well in early May - and the fine settings overlooking rivers or landscape. As usual transport will be provided by the magnificent pre-1939 Rolls Royces of the 20 Ghost Club.

We will visit houses that are not regularly open to the public or if a house is open we will usually arrange a private tour. The current programme includes: Werrington (little known mainly C18 house in a fine setting), Kelly (atmospheric home to more than 30 generations of the Kelly family), Port Eliot (medieval and later house by Soane and others, seat of the Earls of St Germans), Pencarrow (fine Palladian house with notable portraits), Boconnoc (C18 house superbly restored in the last 20 years), Caerhays (Picturesque castle by John Nash), Cotehele (best Tudor house in the county, beautifully sited above the Tamar), Lanhydrock (notable for its C17 and Victorian work), Trewithen (elegant Georgian house with interiors by Sir Robert Taylor), Antony (exceptional 1720s house to a Gibbs design) and Prideaux Place (Elizabethan home of the Prideaux-Brunes).

The tour will start after breakfast on Saturday 7th and end after lunch on Monday 9th. This year it will be based at The Lanhydrock Hotel, a privately-owned modern hotel standing in its own golf course. It is a 4 mile taxi ride from Bodmin Parkway station. There are regular trains from Paddington which take about 4 hours (or by the overnight sleeper arriving at 6.20am). Alternatively it is just off the A30 and A38, the main roads that both connect with the M5. We will form the majority of guests in the hotel. There is a choice of two types of room: 'luxury' rooms are bigger, and have a nicer view overlooking the golf course (with a terrace if on the ground floor), while 'executive' rooms are slightly smaller and at the back of the hotel. Please note that the luxury rooms can only be used as doubles or singles, not twins. If your chosen type of room is not available we will allocate you to another room and either make a refund or request an extra payment as the case may be.

The cost of the tour will be £645 per person sharing in a luxury room or £585 per person sharing in an executive room, and will include B & B for the nights of Friday 6th, Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th, lunch each day, dinner on Saturday and Sunday evenings, drinks at some but not necessarily all meals, transport on the tour, coffee or tea at some houses and house entrance fees. Single rooms are available at £750 (luxury room) or £720 (executive room). Rooms are currently available at the hotel for the nights of Thursday 5th and Monday 9th and can be booked through Robert Jennings, though payment would be direct to the hotel.

If you wish to apply for a place on the tour, please complete the attached application form with a cheque and your email address or a SAE and return it to Robert Jennings, 28 Elmfield Road, London SW17 8AL (email: robertbpjennings@btinternet.com). We plan to allocate places by our St Patrick's Day Party on 17th March so please return the form not later than 14th March if possible. The number of places for members of the two societies is limited. If the tour is oversubscribed, we will try but do not guarantee to give priority to those who have missed out on recent tours.

DAY VISIT TO ELTON HALL & MILTON HALL

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY

We have arranged a private visit to Elton Hall and Milton Hall, near Peterborough on Wednesday 25th May. The day will comprise a morning visit to Elton Hall, where we will be lunching, and an afternoon tour of Milton Hall. Milton is not generally open to the public – apart from one day a year! – and our visit to Elton is prior to the opening season. This promises to be a very special day.

Elton Hall

The Proby family have occupied Elton for some 300 years, with its present incumbent, Sir William Proby, being a past chairman of the National Trust. Originally a 15th-century house, it was extended in the 1670's and then again in the mid-19th Century. It is known principally for its magnificent collection of furniture and paintings. The Probys (formerly Earls of Carysfort) had strong Irish connections, owning Glenart Castle till the 1930s.

Milton Hall

The manor of Milton was bought by William Fitzwilliam in 1502. The present house dates from the 1590's and was commissioned by William's grandson, the 3rd William Fitzwilliam and Lord Deputy of Ireland, who also began to lay out the grounds. Subsequent improvements involved Henry Flitcroft (new south front) and Sir William Chambers, who completed the work on the hall.

Latterly Wentworth Woodhouse in Yorkshire became the principal seat of the family. After the occupation of the Hall during the Second World War, Lord and Lady Fitzwilliam returned to Milton to make it their home. The Earl died in 1979 and the Countess in 1995, at which time the estate passed to Sir Philip Naylor-Leyland, the present owner.

Tickets for this day trip cost £72 per person and the ticket price covers coach travel to/from London, entry to the houses and lunch. The coach will leave from a location in Central London at 8.45am promptly. The coach is expected to return to London by around 7.30pm.

If you would like to attend, please complete the attached application form and return with your cheque and an email address or SAE to Tim Bacon, Ramsden Farm, Stone-cum-Ebony, Nr Tenterden, Kent, TN30 7JB (Tel: 01797 270300; email: streakybacon@ramsdenfarm.co.uk). Full details will be sent to those attending closer to the event. Priority will be given to members, but guests may be permitted if there is space.

N.B. We are limited to a maximum of 24 people and in the event of over-subscription a ballot may have to be applied. To qualify please respond by the 10th April.

SUMMER DRINKS PARTY

THURSDAY 7 JULY

This year's Summer Drinks party will be held at No 1 Ilchester Place, London, W14 8AA – just off Holland Park. It is the home of Julia and Oric L'Vov Basirov, long-standing friends of Marylyn and Tim Bacon. Julia is a picture restorer and a guide at the V&A, while Oric is a renowned Anglo-Russian Archaeologist, Iranologist and Historian.

The houses in Ilchester Place were built in the 1920's on the Holland Estate – the architect was Scottish-born Leonard Martin who trained at the South Kensington Architectural Schools and the Royal Academy Schools. All of the houses are Neo-Georgian in style and the influence of Edwin Lutyens can also be seen. Julia's parents bought the house in 1968 and it has been in her family ever since. The previous owner was the actress Anne Todd (1909-1993), who lived there with her third husband, the Film Director David Lean. Ingrid Berman was also a frequent house guest during this time. Anne Todd starred in the production of Alexander Dumas's "Dame of the Camelias". In gratitude, she was given two camelia bushes which still thrive, one in the front garden and one in the back.

Drinks and canapés will be served from 6.30pm and the evening will end around 8.30pm and costs £30 per person (or £25 YIG cost). Guests are welcome. If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form & cheque with an email address or SAE to Marylyn Bacon, Ramsden, Stone-cum-Ebony, Nr Tenterden, Kent, TN30 7JB (Tel: 01797 270300; email: streakybacon@ramsdenfarm.co.uk). Full details will be sent to those attending closer to the date.

YIG VISIT TO SYON HOUSE

SUNDAY 10 JULY

Our forthcoming YIG visit is to Syon House, which includes access to the private apartments. We are delighted to announce that our special tour will be provided by the expert Adriano Aymonino, who completed his PhD on the 1st Duke and Duchess of Northumberland. Adriano Aymonino previously worked as head of research for the Commission for Looted Art in Europe and is now the co-ordinator of the University of Buckingham's undergraduate Art History programme. While YIG events are usually reserved for members up to 40 years of age, we are happy to also take a limited number of regular members, should places be available.

The Duke of Somerset was responsible for the erection of Syon House in c.1547. When the 7th Duke of Somerset died in 1750, the 1st Duke and Duchess of Northumberland inherited the estates. Robert Adam was then responsible for the substantial remodelling of the interiors in the 1760s.

The tour begins at 10.15am, will include lunch at a local pub, and we plan to finish around 4pm. Our tour costs £35 for YIG members and £45 for standard members. If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form & cheque with an email address or SAE to Ashleigh Murray, 12 Fairline Court, 2 Oakwood Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 6PJ (07837766974; email: ashleigh_mur@hotmail.com). Full details will be sent to those attending closer to the date.

Non-IGS Events

Dublin Long Weekend (22nd to 27th September)

Architectural historian Roger White, formerly Secretary of both the Georgian Group and Garden History Society and a long-standing member of the IGS, is organising a private Dublin-based long weekend in September that focusses primarily on Georgian buildings. The programme divides between Dublin interiors that aren't accessible to the general public (for instance, the main Georgian interiors at Trinity College and hopefully the Provost's House; Leinster House; the Stephen's Green and Kildare Street Clubs; the King's Inns; various town houses in Stephen's Green and Merrion Square) and country houses in the hinterland, including Barmeth Castle, Beaulieu (both houses on which Roger has recently written *Country Life* articles), Townley Hall, Altidore Castle, Lucan House (provisionally), Carton House and its Shell Cottage. The final building to be seen is the presidential residence in Phoenix Park, Aras an Uachtarain, with its collection of outstanding stucco ceilings.

London Chapter members interested in availing themselves of this rare opportunity to see these interiors can obtain a full programme and booking details by emailing Roger White (mail@rcwhite.co.uk) or sending him a stamped addressed envelope to 142 Weir Road, London SW12 0ND.

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. The Society's website is 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.

WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY TOUR

SATURDAY 9 APRIL

Please reserve place(s) at £15 each.

Name of member(s):

Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

I enclose a cheque payable to the IGS London Chapter Ltd. for £

Please return with your cheque and an email address or SAE to Nick Sheaff 4 Framfield Road, Highbury Fields, London, N5 1UU

(Tel: 07515496987; email: nicksheaff@virginmedia.com).

TOUR IN CORNWALL WITH THE 20 GHOST CLUB

FRIDAY 6 TO MONDAY 9 MAY

Please reserve places at £645 (£1290 for 2 people) in a luxury room or places at £585 (£1170 for 2 people) in an executive room (please circle as appropriate)

Please reserve one place at £750 in a single luxury room or £720 in a single executive room (please circle as appropriate)

I/we would like a single / double / twin room (please circle as appropriate). Please note that only executive rooms can be used as twins.

Name of member(s):

Email address:

Mobile No.

Special dietary Requirements:

I enclose a cheque payable to the IGS London Chapter Ltd. for £

Please return with your cheque and an email address or SAE to Robert Jennings, 28 Elmfield Road, London SW17 8AL.

(email: robertbjennings@btinternet.com).

VISIT TO ELTON HALL & MILTON HALL

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY

Please reserve place(s) at £72 each.

Name of member(s):

Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

Special dietary Requirements:

I enclose a cheque payable to the IGS London Chapter Ltd. for £

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

(Tel: 01797 270300; email: streakybacon@ramsdenfarm.co.uk).

SUMMER DRINKS PARTY

THURSDAY 7 JULY

Please reserve place(s) at £30 each (or £25 YIG cost)

Name of member(s):

Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

I enclose a cheque payable to the IGS London Chapter Ltd. for £

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

(Tel: 01797 270300; email: streakybacon@ramsdenfarm.co.uk).

YIG VISIT TO SYON HOUSE

SUNDAY 10 JULY

Please reserve place(s) at £35 each (£45 for regular members).

Name of member(s):

Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

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Please return with your cheque and an email address or SAE to Ashleigh Murray, 12
Fairline Couirt, 2 Oakwood Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 6PJ.

(07837766974; email: ashleigh_mur@hotmail.com)