



# Taken for Granted: spending to save Ireland's architectural heritage

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 | Irish Georgian Society  
City Assembly House, 58 South William Street, Dublin 2





*The Irish Georgian Society, in association with The Heritage Council, presents a day-long seminar examining the critical role grants play in preserving our architectural heritage. Showcasing best conservation practice achieved and the technical lessons learnt through funding provided by the Irish Georgian Society, The Heritage Council, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and other governmental and non-governmental grant giving bodies.*



Case studies under review include: stained glass window of **Agher Church**, Co. Meath; Coadestone lion at **Mote Park**, Co. Roscommon; **O'Brien column**, Liscannor, County Clare; plasterwork ceilings at **Collon Church**, Co. Louth; wrought iron gates at **St. John's Monsterevin**, Co. Kildare; conservation of the thatched vernacular cottage at **Lenankeel**, Co. Donegal; lime wig pointing at the **City Assembly House**, Dublin City; and the slate roof at **Bridge House**, Westport, Co. Mayo.

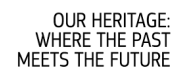
**Venue:** Irish Georgian Society, City Assembly House, 58 South William Street, Dublin 2.

**Date:** Thursday 22nd November 2018 (10am – 5pm).

**Price:** €60. Booking made through the Irish Georgian Society. [info@igs.ie](mailto:info@igs.ie) | [www.igs.ie](http://www.igs.ie) | 01 6798675

This event is recognised as formal CPD (5 ½ points) by the **Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland**, **Engineers Ireland** and the **CIFF's Register of Heritage Contractors**.

This is a **European Year of Cultural Heritage** Event.



## TIMELINE

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**9.00am** Registration, Irish Georgian Society, 58 South William Street, D.2

**9.30am** *Welcome & Introduction: Architectural Conservation Grants: an Irish Georgian Society perspective* by **Donough Cahill**, Executive Director Irish Georgian Society.

**Session I: Chair, Colm Murray**, Architecture Officer, The Heritage Council

**9.45am** **Agher Church**, Co. Meath by **Deirdre Mc Dermott**, conservation architect & **Emma Newman**, formerly on student placement at York Glaziers Trust detailing best conservation practice for the repair of its **stained glass window**.

**10.10am** **Bridge House**, Westport, Co. Mayo by **Nicholas Prins**, heritage building contractor on **slate and lead roof repairs**.

**10.35am** **Lenankeel**, Co. Donegal by **Duncan McLaren**, Dedalus Architecture with emphasis on the conservation of the vernacular house's **thatch roof**.

- 11.00am**      **Tea/coffee (O'Connell Room)**
- 11.30am**      **St. John's Monsterevin**, Co. Kildare by **Richard McLoughlin**, Lotts Conservation Architects on the conservation of **wrought iron** gates.
- 11.55am**      **City Assembly House**, South William Street, Dublin City by **Shane Nolan**, Nolan Group examining lime wig re-pointing.
- 12.20pm**      **Myrtle Grove**, Youghal, Co. Cork by **Lucy O'Connor**, Howley Hayes Architects on the conservation of the timber windows.
- 12.45pm**      **Q&A**
- 1pm-2.30pm**   **LUNCH (brown paper bag lunch)**

**Session II: Chair, Primrose Wilson**, Irish Georgian Society Architectural Conservation Grants Committee

- 2.30pm**      **Mote Park**, Co. Roscommon by **Alasdair Rennie**, Coade Ltd. on the conservation of the **Coadestone lion statue**.
- 2.55pm**      **Collon Church**, Co. Louth by **Frank Keohane**, historic building surveyor detailing **internal lathe and plaster ceiling conservation**.
- 3.20pm**      **O'Brien column**, Liscannor, Co. Clare by **Úna Ní Mhearáin**, Consarc Conservation with an emphasis on **hot lime**.
- 3.45pm**      **An Architectural Conservation Officer's Perspective of Grant Funding** by **Helena Bergin**, Fingal County Council.
- 4.10pm**      **Q&A**
- 4.30pm**      **SEMINAR CLOSES**

## **GRANT AIDED CONSERVATION CASE STUDIES**

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### **AGHER PARISH CHURCH, (STAINED GLASS)**

The East widow of Agher Parish Church, believed to date from c1770, is one of only two surviving works of Dublin born, experimental stained glass painter, Thomas Jervais, who moved to London during the later 1770s, where he supplied the domestic market and received Royal and Oxford College patronage. The window was commissioned by the Wellesley family for their home at Summerhill, now derelict. The first Duke of Wellington born 1769, was brought up there, before the house was sold in 1793. Following a fire in Summerhill, the window was moved to Agher chapel built by the Winters family on a nearby estate and is one of the oldest extant stained glass windows in Ireland remaining in-situ.

Using extremely thin and undulating crown glass Jervais depicted a scene taken from a Raphael cartoon (currently at the V&A Museum) of St Paul preaching to the Athenians. Retaining all the original glass, conservation grade epoxy resins were used to repair cracks in the window and an internally ventilated protective glazing scheme was introduced to the church. The methods used by Jervais were unconventional in the creation of a stained glass window and the conservation of the window was dictated to protect his curious designs and methods.

In addition to Irish Georgian Society funds, grants were provided by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; The Primrose Trust; Rathmoylan Union of Parishes Select Vestry;

Arthur Wellesley, 9th Duke of Wellington; The Heritage Council and the Department's Built Heritage Investment Scheme, which was administered by Meath County Council.

### **BRIDGE HOUSE, THE MALL, WESTPORT, COUNTY MAYO (SLATE ROOF)**

Bridge House is located on the historic Mall in the planned Georgian town of Westport. This townhouse represents an integral component of the domestic built heritage of Westport with the architectural value of the composition, one of the 'large and handsome houses [erected] on both sides of the Westport or Carrowbeg River' (Lewis, 1837). On account of an original structural design defect in the 18th century roof of Bridge House, the project involved dismantling most of the roof structure and then reassembling all the original elements in their original positions after the defect had been addressed. A date of 1750 was established during these roof restoration works. Bridge House has received an Irish Georgian Society grant towards the roof repairs, and was also in receipt of a Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Fáilte Ireland and the Heritage Council's Historic Towns Initiative grant.

### **CITY ASSEMBLY HOUSE, 58 SOUTH WILLIAM STREET, DUBLIN 2 (LIME WIGGING)**

At the time of its construction the City Assembly House on Dublin's South William Street constituted a tremendously advanced initiative as it stood as the first purpose-built public art gallery in either Britain or Ireland, and possibly in Europe. It was built by the Society of Artists in Ireland between 1766 and 1771 with the expressed aim of promoting the work of Irish artists and providing an academy for the arts. Its architect is unknown though the street elevation could be by Oliver Grace who exhibited 'an elevation, proposed as a front to the Exhibition Room' with the Society of Artists in 1768.

In 2016, the Irish Georgian Society, under the guidance of architect Úna Ní Mhearáin of Consarc, engaged Nolan Group to restore the front elevation of the building. The process started with the identification of the original pointing, which was a wigged style joint. Location of some of the original pointing determined the colour for the stopping mortar and most importantly dictated the ribbon sizes used, which was critical to the finish. The building was then carefully raked out and then the repointing began, starting with jointing in the ribbon and cutting in top and bottom to provide an accurate ribbon size. This section is cut slightly back into the edge of the brick, leaving enough room for the stopping mortar and making sure the stopping mortar is flush with the brick which in turn leaves a slightly proud ribbon and casts a slight shadow showing accurately gauged brickwork which is often described as 'the grand illusion'. The work was grant aided by the Department's Built Heritage Investment Scheme and through Irish Georgian Society funds.

### **COLLON CHURCH (LATH & PLASTER CEILINGS)**

Collon Church has one of the finest early nineteenth century fan-vaulted ceilings in Ireland. Commissioned by "Speaker" John Foster (1740-1828) of Collon House, and designed by the talented amateur architect, the Reverend Daniel Augustus Beaufort (1739-1821), the church is in the Perpendicular Gothic style and appears to have been modelled on the chapel of King's College, Cambridge. Owing to concerns over its condition and safety, a report on the ceiling and its supporting structures was grant-aided by the IGS. A holistic assessment of the ceiling and the overall church has brought clarity, and has allowed for repairs to be planned in a prioritised and focused manner which will safeguard the church and its wonderful ceiling vault.

### **LENANKEEL, CO. DONEGAL (VERNACULAR THATCHED HOUSE)**

The thatched house at Lenankeel forms part of a traditional clachan settlement located at the exposed northwestern tip of Inishowen. Despite the building and its setting being known internationally through the published work of Estyn Evans and Desmond McCourt, the building is not a Protected Structure. The house is the last thatched building in the group, and only the main section was still standing by the time Duncan was invited to look at the building in late

2015. With assistance from the Irish Georgian Society, a conservation report was prepared in early 2016, during which time the structure continued to deteriorate rapidly. Guided by the conservation report, a grant from the Heritage Council (a Heritage Management Scheme 2016) and technical support from Fidelma Mullane, the roof was repaired and substantially rebuilt the following year. Separated from the traditional hillside source of building materials, the 3-room cottage was repaired by a local builder and thatcher using techniques informed by the investigation of the original structure and with materials that could be commercially sourced. The repaired roof allowed the house to start to dry out and the rehabilitation of the accommodation to proceed over the course of the following year. The rehabilitation of the house, and its completion in January 2018, was observed in an episode of the RTE television series, 'The Great House Revival'.

### **LION'S GATE ARCHWAY, MOTE PARK, COUNTY ROSCOMMON (COADESTONE STATUE)**

The Lion's Gate archway stands at the former south-eastern entrance to the demesne of Mote Park. The archway is attributed to James Gandon. It was built in 1787 and consists of a Doric triumphal arch constructed of limestone surmounted by a Coade stone lion with screen walls linking it to a pair of identical lodges. The structure had been in poor condition for some time with weather action causing damage to its stonework and the legs of the Coade Stone lion fractured in places.

The Roscommon Heritage Group has long championed the conservation of the Gate and, with guidance from local conservation architect Mary Carroll, spearheaded a programme of works in 2016 to consolidate the archway and repair the Coade Stone lion. This artificial stone was produced through the moulding and firing clays over several days and was patented by Mrs Eleanor Coade and produced in England in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Following the preparation of a report prepared by sculptor Eoghan Dalton, the Lion was removed and brought for repair to Coade Ltd. of Wiltshire, England. Its conservation included the reconnecting of three of its legs which had become separated as well as careful surface cleaning. The Lion was reinstated in September 2016.

In addition to a grant from the Irish Georgian Society, funding was also provided by Roscommon County Council, the Dept. for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, The Follies Trust, Roscommon Heritage Group and an anonymous donation.

### **MYRTLE GROVE, YOUGHAL, COUNTY CORK (TIMBER WINDOWS)**

Myrtle Grove, which stands on an eight acre site, crossed by the medieval town wall in Youghal County Cork, is the former home of the Elizabethan adventurer, Sir Walter Raleigh. This interesting and ancient house, with intact panelled interiors and a magnificent carved oak chimneypiece, dates from the mid sixteenth century or possibly earlier, and is thought to be the oldest private house in Ireland to have been occupied continuously. During the late nineteenth century, the house was purchased and refurbished to provide an Irish home for Sir Henry Blake and his wife Edith, who spent most of their working lives in diplomatic service posted in the West Indies and Asia. Many of the timber windows, some in the form of large bays date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, were in poor condition and a first phase of repairs was overseen by Howley Hayes Architects in late 2018, with the assistance of grants from the Irish Georgian Society and Cork County Council. Howley Hayes Architects are currently preparing a conservation plan for Myrtle Grove to include the house, out buildings, town wall and gardens.

### **O'BRIEN COLUMN, LISCANNOR, CO. CLARE (HOT LIME)**

O'Brien's Column is a freestanding cut-stone monument, built of local limestone comprising a fluted Doric column surmounted by an urn and set on a square-profile plinth. It is located on an elevated site overlooking Liscannor Bay and a short distance from The Cliffs of Moher. The column was erected in c.1858-9, after the death of Cornelius O'Brien, a local MP and an improving landlord who lived at the nearby Birchfield House.

The column has remained almost unnoticed in recent years, a forgotten monument, unaltered since its erection almost 160 years ago. The Follies Trust was concerned about the condition of the column and so undertook to raise funds for the repair and conservation of the structure. The project was undertaken in the summer of 2017. The talk discusses the survey and repair methods; the use of hot lime mortar; and how the challenges of the project and the site were addressed. This project was grant aided by The Follies Trust, the Irish Georgian Society, The Primrose Trust and Apollo.

### **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, MONASTEREVIN, CO. KILDARE (WROUGHT-IRONWORK)**

The entrance gates to St John's Church, Monasterevin, Co Kildare are a prominent feature of the main street, consisting of three tall leaves of ornate wrought-ironwork with an exuberant tiered overthrow between high stone piers. Although the church was consecrated in 1772, the style of the gates indicates they are earlier, and it is believed that they originated in the demesne of Moore Abbey, the estate of the earls of Drogheda, to whom the town owes its eighteenth-century layout. The gates were badly corroded, disfigured by earlier bracing and the high overthrow had become unsafe due to corrosion of its supports. Restoration of the gates was undertaken in 2018 following best conservation practice and with the assistance of Kildare County Council under the BHIS grants scheme and the Irish Georgian Society.

### **AN ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION OFFICER'S PERSPECTIVE OF GRANT FUNDING**

It is almost 20 years since the government introduced architectural heritage legislation that provided for the creation within local authorities of the post of Architectural Conservation Officer and also set out the terms of a national conservation grant scheme. Over these two decades the Architectural Conservation Officer has been instrumental in operating the national grants schemes but has also advised owners of other funding opportunities provided through organisation or programmes such as Irish Georgian Society, Heritage Council, Fáilte Ireland, The Follies Trust, LEADER, REPS/GLAS, FLAG, Housing Aid for Older Persons. The Architectural Conservation Officer's experience of the operation and administration of grant schemes, the outcomes of projects that have received assistance, as well as the direct and indirect benefits of funding will be examined.



*Collon Church*



*Myrtle Grove*



*St. John's Church Gate*



## SPEAKER AND CHAIRS' BIOGRAPHIES

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**HELENA BERGIN** is the Architectural Conservation Officer for the local authority of Fingal County Council in North County Dublin, Ireland. She designates and helps protect the architectural heritage of this area as well as advises and helps owners to care for their buildings. Helena obtained a Masters in the Conservation of Historic Buildings from the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York in the UK. On her return to Ireland she assisted Susan Roundtree in establishing one of the first local authority conservation offices in Ireland which was set up in Dublin City Council in 1999. She has experience of all of the various inceptions of national conservation grants schemes from 1999 onwards.

**DONOUGH CAHILL** is the Executive Director of the Irish Georgian Society, which was established in 1958 to promote and protect Ireland's architecture, allied arts and designed landscapes. Donough oversees the strategic and day-to-day operations of the IGS and of its Dublin based office through working with the Irish Georgian Foundation's Committee of Management, its standing committees and working groups, with the Chicago based office of the Society's US charitable body IGS Inc., and with trustees of the UK based Irish Georgian Society London.

**FRANK KEOHANE** is a Chartered Building Surveyor accredited in Building Conservation and runs his own private building surveyor and conservation practice. Previously he was Associate at Paul Arnold Architects, which a Grade I RIAI conservation accredited practice. Whilst at Paul Arnold Architects he acted as the conservation advisor to the OPW for works to the East Wing and Home Farm at Castletown House, as well as being the conservation advisor for the day-to-day care of the built fabric of Christ Church Cathedral. Frank is the author of Irish Period Houses – A Conservation Guidance Manual (Dublin Civic Trust, 2016) and is currently completing the Buildings of Ireland volume for Cork City and County, which will be published by Yale University Press in 2019.

**DEIRDRE MCDERMOTT**, principal in Deirdre McDermott Associates and conservation consultant in private practice for over three decades, is a registered architect, planner and urbanist, working in heritage and on traditionally built buildings in Ireland, UK, France and Africa, including vernacular houses, coastguard stations, hunting lodges and other Georgian structures. Former president of the Irish National Committee of ICOMOS, she continues to network and work within this global conservation organisation at both a local and an international level. She is currently particularly involved in Gort, Co. Galway, Ireland, with 'Localising the UN Sustainable Development Goals', through Baile, -the ICOMOS National Scientific Committee on Small Towns and Villages; and both locally and at a more national level, with Energy and Sustainability in Traditional Buildings, combining and applying this work within her general practice.

**DUNCAN MCLAREN**, is principal of Dedalus Architecture. After studying at The Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL) and practising architecture in London, Duncan moved to Dublin in 1993 working for a number of practices including as Associate Director with Henry J Lyons & Partners. Duncan's interest is historic buildings, and he has been accredited as a conservation architect for over 15 years. Duncan established Dedalus Architecture, a grade 1 accredited conservation practice, in Inishowen, County Donegal in 2001. The practice has been involved with conservation and repair of buildings dating from the medieval period onwards, throughout Ireland. Work by the practice also includes heritage research and heritage-led urban regeneration planning projects, including guidelines for: Ballyshannon, Letterkenny, Ramelton and the Fountain & Bogside areas of Derry city. Duncan is conservation adviser to the Heritage Council & Irish Landmark Trust and has undertaken heritage projects for community groups, commercial & statutory bodies including:

Allied Irish Banks PLC, Donegal County Council, Galway City Council, Northern Ireland Office of First Minister & Deputy First Minister and the National Trust.

**RICHARD MCLOUGHLIN** is an RIAI Grade 1 accredited conservation architect. A graduate of UCD school of architecture and the Technical University Berlin, he has worked in Berlin, London and Chicago and has been involved in the conservation of historic buildings for 25 years. As joint director of Lotts Architecture since 2007 he has completed a wide variety of conservation projects, heritage inventories and conservation plans, and was Highly Commended in the Irish Georgian Society Conservation Awards in 2018 for his restoration of the decorative ironwork Market House in Stradbally, Co. Laois. He is the current Chair of the RIAI Historic Buildings Committee.

**ÚNA NÍ MHEARÁIN**, FRIAI, is an architect with 30 years' experience in the field of architecture and conservation. She is a Grade 1 Conservation Architect and works for Consarc Conservation. In addition to the repair of O'Brien's Column, other recent projects include; the City Assembly House project; the repair and conservation works, and a new exhibition space at the former Parliament House, (Bank of Ireland), College Green; Adare Manor, Co. Limerick; Ashford Castle, Co. Mayo; and Headfort House, Co. Meath. She is currently chair of the Building Limes Forum Ireland and a board member of ICOMOS.

**COLM MURRAY** is the Architecture Office with The Heritage Council, which was established in 1995 as an independent state sponsored body which has a statutory responsibility to propose policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the national heritage.

**EMMA NEWMAN** graduated with a BA in Ancient and Medieval History and Culture from Trinity College in 2014 and began an MA in Stained Glass Conservation and Heritage Management at the University of York. During her work placement at university, she spent four months at York Glaziers Trust in 2016 conserving the east window of Agher Parish Church by Thomas Jervais and conserved a Joshua Clarke & Sons window for Deal Castle (Joshua was Harry Clarke's father). She has since been employed at the Barley Studio working on several stained glass conservation projects ranging from 14th century to 19th century windows, and also helped to complete four new staircase windows for the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin. She is currently working at Uppsala Cathedral in Sweden conserving the west Rose window.

**SHANE NOLAN** is the Managing Director Nolans Group Conservation & Restoration Ltd., who are façade restoration specialists. Shane Nolan has over 20 years' experience in the field of conservation & restoration and has worked on some of the largest conservation & restoration projects in the country over this period. Shane's main area of expertise is façade restoration with a particular passion for brick restoration projects. He has a thorough understanding of historic structures and what is required to repair or reinstate historic building fabric and the correct materials to be used. Shane serves on the committee of the Building Limes Forum Ireland (BLFI) and is particularly interested in promoting the proper use of lime mortars.

**LUCY O'CONNOR** is a Senior Architect at Howley Hayes Architects, a practice recognised for its work in both contemporary design and the sensitive conservation of historic buildings. The practice has been responsible for the conservation, adaptation and reuse of numerous buildings of national and international cultural significance, many of which have received RIAI, RIBA, IGS, Opus or Europa Nostra Awards. Under the RIAI Conservation Accreditation System, Howley Hayes Architects is a Conservation Practice Grade 1. To date the practice has been responsible for over two hundred conservation reports, plans and feasibility studies for clients such as the Heritage Council, the World Monument Fund, the Department of Art Heritage & the Gaeltacht, the OPW, as well as numerous local authorities and private clients.



**NICHOLAS PRINS** has for the past 15 years worked as a contractor specialising in the repair of historic buildings and especially on the repair of historic roofs. Before that, he managed Lissadell House and estate for 14 years for the Gore-Booth family. He is also a suckler farmer in Co Sligo.

**ALASDAIR RENNIE** joined Coade Ltd. in 2000 where he works to recreate and repair classical sculpture, and create contemporary pieces and private commissions in Coade stone. Alasdair is the Winner of the Powell-Davis Prize for painting, the Richard Ford Travel Scholarship, the Sir Roger De Grey Prize for drawing, the David Wolfers Painting Prize, and the Diana Brooks Prize for painting, Alasdair has a degree in fine art painting from the City and Guilds of London School of Art and has exhibited regularly at a number of galleries in London, around the country and in Ireland. Alasdair's work at Coade Ltd. resulted in him transferring his eye for line and form in painting to sculpture.

**PRIMROSE WILSON**, CBE is the Chair of the Irish Georgian Society's Architectural Conservation Grants Committee. She is a founding director of The Follies Trust and The Primrose Trust. She is past board member of The Heritage Council and the Irish Georgian Society. Currently, she is the President of Ulster Architectural Heiritage.



*Bridge House*

**Photo Credits:**

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Front Cover: **Top Left** (*O'Brien Column*), **Top Right** (*Lion at Mote Park*): Frank Scott, **Bottom Left** (*Lenankeel*), **Bottom Right** (*Agher Church Window*): Nick Bradshaw

## CONSERVATION GRANT SEMINAR BOOKING FORM

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**Venue:** City Assembly House, 58 South William Street, Dublin 2

**Price:** €60

Name(s) as you wish it to appear on the delegate badge(s):

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