



Irish
Georgian
Society

LONDON CHAPTER EVENTS – SPRING & SUMMER 2017

CALL FOR EMAIL ADDRESSES

As we announced at our Saint Patrick's Day Party last year, one of the aims of the Society is to become more 'tech savvy'. Over the past two years, we have reminded members about upcoming events via email, a few weeks before each event. This has proved very successful as we have found that additional people sign up to events when reminded closer to the time.

This form of communication also allows us to advertise events which have been organised at short notice. An example of this is a trip to Sussex which took place on the 9th March. This event was arranged in early 2017 and could not, therefore, form part of the main Autumn/ Winter 2016-17 listing, which was sent to members late last year. On the 25th January 2017 we advertised this event by email, which proved very successful as we received an overwhelming number of applications.

We would like to continue this form of communication as it allows us to easily inform you of any event changes and enables us to notify you of any events organised within short notice.

If you have not been receiving email communication from the London Chapter (londonchapter@igs.ie), please could you email info@igs.ie with the subject line: '**London Chapter Email Address Update**' and include your **full name** in the message so that we can identify you.

*Ashleigh Murray,
Chair of the London Chapter*

CHANGE OF CHEQUE PAYEE

Please note that **all cheques** should now be made payable to:

Irish Georgian Society London

**VISIT TO SPAB HEADQUARTERS
&
CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS
THURSDAY (EVENING) 20 APRIL**

Our first trip will be to the headquarters of the Society of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) at 37 Spital Square, near Spitalfields Market. SPAB is an amenity society that was founded by William Morris (1834-1896) in 1877 in reaction to what was considered to be destructive 'restoration' of medieval buildings being practised by many Victorian architects. Today, it is the largest, oldest and most technically expert national pressure group which aims to save old buildings from decay, demolition and damage.

37 Spital Square is a 1740s house that was built by a wealthy Huguenot silk merchant, Peter Ogier. The house has served as both a dwelling and a workplace but by the 1980s it was in a state dereliction. In 1981 SPAB took over the premises and carried out extensive repair works to convert it as their headquarters. The SPAB Director, Matthew Slocombe, will give a 30 minute lecture about the building, before the group is split into two for separate tours of the house. Matthew, an architectural historian, has worked for SPAB since 1991 and became Director in 2012.

This event will be followed by a unique opportunity to exclusively view Hawksmoor's masterpiece, Christ Church (1729). As well as exploring the nave, we will visit the crypt which has recently been redeveloped by Dow Jones Architects.

Our tour costs £30 (£35 for non-members) and includes a glass of wine, short lecture, a guided tour of 37 Spital Square, and entry to Christ Church. We will meet at 5.15pm and would expect to finish around 8pm.

If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form & cheque with an email address or SAE to Stuart Blakley, Lavender's Blue, 21 Webb's Road, London, SW11 6RU (Stuart.Blakley@taylorwimpey.com). Full details will be sent to those attending closer to the event.

**TOUR IN WEST HAMPSHIRE ETC. WITH
THE 20 GHOST CLUB**

FRIDAY 12 TO MONDAY 15 MAY

As recent tours have been some distance from where many members live, it was decided that this year's tour would be in the Home Counties: West Hampshire, with surrounding elements of Dorset and Wiltshire.

The timings for the advertisement of this event and the distribution of this events listing did not coincide. As such, we advertised this event to members by email: first with two 'Save the Date' emails (14/12/16 & 24/1/17), followed by a 'Booking' email (08/02/17). Those of you who do not have an email address on the Irish database were posted booking forms on the 8th February.

Please note we received a heavy level of applications this year. The closing date is now closed and spaces were allocated in early March.

YIG VISIT TO CHRISTIE'S, KING STREET

MONDAY (EVENING) 15 MAY

Our forthcoming YIG visit is to Christie's King Street rooms and will focus on objects that are on view for two forthcoming auctions. While YIG events are for those under 40 years, a number of places will also be available to standard members.

An archivist at Christie's will lead with a talk about the King Street building that houses Christie's and explain how it has changed over the years.

This will be followed by a tour of the English Collector sale view (auction on 17th May) by a senior specialist. Following this, there will be a walkthrough with a specialist from the Private Collections department of the preview of the forthcoming collection sale of The late Lord Weidenfeld GBE (auction 18th May), the renowned publisher and philanthropist who was a collector of Old Master paintings, sculpture and important 20th-century works on paper, as well as furniture, prints and Chinese porcelain, which will be on display simultaneously.

The former auction focuses on individual consignments of high-quality English pieces of furniture, while the latter encompasses the eclectic interiors at Lord Weidenfeld's home along Chelsea Embankment, which were arranged with great flair by interior designer Geoffrey Bennison and Lord Weidenfeld.

Please arrive at the main reception at 8 King Street, SW1Y 6QT, at 5.45pm where your name will be taken at the door in order to avoid confusion with other ongoing events that evening. The tour will start at 6pm and last for approximately an hour, followed by drinks.

Our tour costs £15 (£25 for standard members) and includes several talks/ tours and a glass of wine (this will either be on site or at a local wine bar, tbc).

If you would like to attend, please send your completed application form & cheque with an email address or SAE to Julia Kiss, 28 Edenvale Rd, London, CR4 2DN (Email: jk.4455@googlemail.com). Full details will be sent to those attending closer to the event.

Please note: YIG events are open to non-members. If any friends or relatives are interested in this event, please do encourage them to apply.

DAY VISIT TO SOUTHILL AND AMPHILL

FRIDAY 9 JUNE

With the exception of Woburn and perhaps Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire may not be noted for its historic houses but, in best London Chapter style, we have unearthed two real gems for your delectation. We have arranged a visit to two fine classical houses, one never open to the public and the other only to groups like ours for two weeks each year.

Southill Park (Charles Whitbread Esq.) was originally built in the 1720s. The house was bought by the Whitbread brewing family in 1795 and then remodelled by Henry Holland. Following an exemplary restoration by IGS members Alec Cobbe and Edward Bulmer, among others, in the 1990s, much of the decoration is as Holland left it and there are many original items of furniture, also designed by Holland, and paintings. There are also fascinating relics of the Whitbreads' long brewing history.

After coffee we will tour the house with Charles Whitbread and the archivist, James Collett-White. There will also be a chance to see the garden which should be at its best at that time of year.

After lunch at a nearby pub, we go on to **Amphill Park House** (Sir Timothy and Lady Clifford). Amphill was built for the Countess of Ailesbury in the 1680s by Robert Grumbold, better known for his work on Cambridge colleges. The house was completed by John Lumley in the 1700s. Then in 1769 a new young owner, the Earl of Upper Ossory, brought in Sir William Chambers to extend and modernise the house. After a typically chequered 20th century, the house was divided into four magnificent vast apartments in 1979 and spectacularly revived. The Cliffords own the main part of the 1680s house, including Chambers' saloon, Lumley's staircase and the majority of the Georgian reception rooms. As befits a former director of the National Gallery of Scotland, the Cliffords have filled the house with their stunning and eclectic collections and have even retrieved items formerly in the house.

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, coffee & biscuits, and a 2-course pub lunch (but not drinks). The coach will leave from the V&A Museum at 9am. The coach is expected to return to London by around 7pm.

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). Full details 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.

DAY VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE COLLEGES PLUS A PRESENTATION OF A PLAY

SATURDAY 1 JULY

We have a very special opportunity to visit two impressive Cambridge Colleges, Downing College and Corpus Christi College, in addition to attending a one-night-only presentation of a new historical play.

The Colleges

The first buildings erected at **Downing College** were designed by William Wilkins (1775-1839) in 1807-1812. Wilkins, who designed the National Gallery, London (1831-1838), had travelled in the Middle East and was greatly influenced by Greek classical architecture. Wilkins' original designs for Downing proposed four ranges around a quadrangle but funds ran out before these could all be completed. In the 1820s William Wilkins also designed new buildings at **Corpus Christi College**, originally founded in 1352. In contrast to the classically designed Downing buildings, the New Court (1822-27) was designed in the neo-gothic style.

The College tours will be kindly provided by Jon Howard, an Irish Georgian Society member and an honorary Fellow of Downing College.

'The Sphere of Light'

We have a wonderful opportunity to attend the reading of a play in the **Howard Theatre**, one of the most recent additions to Downing College which was designed in 2010 by the classical architect Quinlan Terry and his son Francis. The theatre is modelled on the Georgian Theatre at Richmond, Yorkshire, and others of the period, with decorative influences from the recently restored Theatre Royal (1819) at nearby Bury St Edmunds, designed by William Wilkins.

This historical play has been written by the author and playwright Ann Henning Jocelyn, Countess of Roden, and will be presented as a rehearsed reading by professional actors. Set in the 1500s, the play centres on an untold story of the Boleyn family, which has been supported by evidence found in Ireland.

Please note: members are requested to make their own way to and from Cambridge. Travel advice will provided to attendees a few weeks in advance of the event.

We will gather in the Lord Butterfield Café in Downing College between 10am and 11am. The tour will start at 11am SHARP, beginning with Downing College. At 1pm a hot buffet lunch will be provided, followed by a tour of Corpus Christi and the remaining areas of Downing. The play will start at 4pm and finish at 7pm, and includes an interval.

The trip costs £65 (£70 for non-members) and includes tea/coffee (morning), a hot buffet lunch, tour of the colleges, tea/coffee and cake (before the play), and entry to the play. Members may also buy refreshments at the interval.

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).

SUMMER PARTY

THURSDAY 13 JULY

This year's Summer Drinks party will be held at the London Rowing Club, which faces the River Thames on the Embankment in Putney, offering glorious panoramic views of the river from its first-floor balcony.

The club was founded in 1856 and is the second-oldest of the non-academic active rowing clubs on the Thames. The purpose-built 1871 Clubhouse, where the party will be held, was carefully located: far enough out of London to enjoy the tranquil riverside but close enough for easy access from Putney's major transport links.

Drinks and canapés will be served from 6.30pm and the evening will end around 8.30pm and costs £35 per person (or £30 YIG cost). Guests are welcome. Putney Bridge Tube station is a short 10 minute walk, while Putney Train Station is 15 minutes down Putney High Street.

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, London, W9 1PF (Email: Lucy.OConnor@insall-architects.co.uk). Full details will be sent to those attending closer to the date.

LONDON WALKING TOUR

WEDNESDAY (EVENING) 19 JULY

We have been very kindly offered a London walking tour by Irish Georgian Society member and professional tour guide, Louise Chapman.

Louise is the founder and Chairperson of Cognoscenti Guides and in 2011 she gained her Blue Badge accreditation, which is the highest guide industry standard - only Blue Badge guides are allowed to guide in the royal palaces, such as Windsor Castle and the Tower of London, or Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral.

We will be provided with an expert and engaging walking tour by Louise in central London. The tour will start at St Paul's Cathedral, before travelling across the Millennium Bridge to Bankside, focusing on buildings, such as the Tate Modern and the Globe. Our final stop will be the Anchor, a historic inn in Southwark, where we will relax with a glass of wine.

Tickets for this tour cost £17.50 (£12.50 YIG price) per person, which also includes a glass of wine. We will meet at 5.30pm and the tour will last 1.25 hours, with a drink in the pub followed shortly after.

If you would like to attend, please complete the attached application form and return with your cheque and 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.

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 your 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.

**VISIT TO SPAB HEADQUARTERS
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THURSDAY (EVENING) 20 APRIL**

Please reserve place(s) at £30 (£35 non-member)

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Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

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(Stuart.Blakley@taylorwimpey.com).

**YIG VISIT TO CHRISTIE'S
MONDAY (EVENING) 15 MAY**

Please reserve place(s) at £15 each (YIG members) £25 (standard 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 Julia Kiss, 28 Edenvale Rd, London, CR4 2DN

(Email: jk.4455@googlemail.com).

DAY VISIT TO SOUTHILL AND AMPHILL

FRIDAY 9 JUNE

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

Name of member(s):

Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

Special dietary Requirements:

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

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

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SATURDAY 1 JULY

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Name of guest(s):

Email/Telephone No.

Special dietary Requirements:

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