

**IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
for the year ended 31 December 2015



*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*

*campaigning for protection and conservation, and*

*undertaking and supporting initiatives for the decorative arts and historic structures and places, including gardens and landscapes.*

*Front:* Rose window, Dun Laoghaire Presbyterian Church.

# CONTENTS

DIRECTORS, IRISH GEORGIAN FOUNDATION	4
COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND STAFF	6
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT	8
CONSERVATION GRANTS	10
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	12
TREASURER'S REPORT	26
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	27

The main activities of the organisation are carried out by the Irish Georgian Foundation which is a recognised charity (no. CHY 3092084) in Ireland for tax purposes. The 'Irish Georgian Society' is the operating name of the Foundation.

The Irish Georgian Society is an unincorporated membership body which convenes an Annual Meeting each year. The Society has no financial activity. Members' subscriptions are recorded in the accounts of the Foundation.

In November 2014, the Irish Georgian Foundation adopted policies and procedures in furtherance of its aims to ensure that the Foundation operates in accordance with best practice for the Community Voluntary and Charitable sector in Ireland and in accordance with appropriate legislation.

## DIRECTORS, IRISH GEORGIAN FOUNDATION, 2015

### **Victoria Browne**

Director, Castletown Foundation; works with the Irish Heritage Trust.

### **Mary Bryan**

Conservation architect; former member, An Bord Pleanála; former Executive Director, Irish Georgian Society.

### **Rose Mary Craig**

Heritage tourism consultant and formerly with Córas Tráchtála, the Irish export board.

### **Maura Currihan** (retired Sept. 2015)

Communications consultant; teacher; theatre practitioner (retired).

### **Beth Dater**

Managing Director of Angelo, Gordon & Co. and Managing Member of Gamecock Island Associates LLC; President of Irish Georgian Society Inc.; and serves on the board of The New-York Historical Society, NYU Langone Medical Center, The New York Community Trust, Prep For Prep, and ShareGift USA.

### **Dr David Fleming (chairman)**

Historian and author; lecturer, Department of History, University of Limerick; director, Hunt Museums' Trust; secretary, Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society.

### **Patrick Guinness (president)** (retired November 2015)

Author and historian; former representative for Sotheby's in Ireland; council member, Kildare Archaeological Society; and trustee, Iveagh Trust.

### **Jerry Healy** (retired Sept. 2015)

Barrister-at-law and appointed a Senior Counsel in 1995.

### **Louise Kennedy** (retired Sept. 2015)

Fashion designer.

### **William Laffan**

Art historian and author; art curator; former editor, *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*.

### **Camilla McAleese**

Former Under Treasurer, the Honourable Society of King's Inns; previously worked with the Irish Association of Pension Funds and IDA Ireland; chairman, the Irish Landmark Trust; board member, The Follies Trust, and former director, Irish Heritage Trust.

### **Johnnie McCoy**

Barrister-at-Law, Mediator, Arbitrator and Adjudicator at Law Library.

### **Pat Murray**

Buildings management consultant.

### **Letitia Pollard**

Writing and editing professional; former editor of the Fáilte Ireland's *Ireland of the Welcomes*.

### **Brian Redmond (treasurer)**

Chartered accountant; retired partner Ernst & Young; Director, *Circa Art Magazine*; director, Irish Children's Museum/Exploration Station.



**Primrose Wilson, CBE**

Chair, Association of Preservation Trusts (NI); chair, Follies Trust; board member, Armagh Observatory and Planetarium and of HEARTH.

## COMMITTEES, 2015

### Architectural Conservation and Planning

Reviews, considers, implements and promotes the Society's architectural conservation and planning policies.

*Members:* Mary Bryan, Donough Cahill (*ex officio*), David Johnson, Sunni Goodson, Amy Hastings (chair), Emmeline Henderson (*ex officio*), Frank Keohane, Jeanne Meldon, and Dr John Olley.

### Editorial Board of *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*

Advises the editor of the Irish Georgian Society's Journal on its quality, standards and publication.

*Members:* Professor Christine Casey, Nicola Figgis, Dr Alison Fitzgerald, William Laffan (chair), David Griffin, Livia Hurley, Anna Moran, Dr Edward McParland, Professor Finola O'Kane Crimmins, and Brendan Rooney.

*Editor:* Dr Conor Lucey (retired March 2015); Professor Finola O'Kane Crimmins (appointed March 2015).

### Education

Reviews, develops and implements the Society's education programme or policies.

*Members:* Maura Currivan (retired Sept. 2015), Geralyn White (appointed Sept. 2015).

### Finance

Administers the financial affairs of the Foundation; proposes budget and ensures compliance with audit, filing and reporting requirements.

*Members:* Dr David Fleming, Brian Redmond (chair), Donough Cahill (*ex officio*), Charlie Sweeney, Patrick Guinness (retired Nov. 2015), Eugene McCarthy, Brendan Toomey, Mary Reade (*ex officio*), and Rose Mary Craig.

### Governance

Reviews, considers and proposes changes to the governing instruments, structure and operation of the Irish Georgian Foundation.

*Members:* Donough Cahill (*ex officio*), Dr Ruth Casey, Brian Redmond (chair), Dr David Fleming, Mary Bryan, Patrick Guinness (retired Nov. 2015), Johnnie McCoy, and Brendan Toomey.

### Membership and Events

Develops and implements the Society's events programme and membership activities.

*Members:* Emily Barton, Victoria Browne, Rose Mary Craig (chair), Johnnie McCoy, Doreen McNamara (*ex officio* – retired Sept. 2015), Roisin Lambe (*ex officio* – appointed Sept 2015), Pat Murray, Karin O'Flanagan, and Glascott Symes.

## WORKING GROUPS

### City Assembly House

Liaises with the project Design Team and monitors the conservation and restoration of the City Assembly House, South William Street.

*Members:* Mary Bryan, Donough Cahill (*ex officio*), David Griffin, Patrick Guinness (retired Nov. 2015), Jerry Healy (chair), James Paul McDonnell, Pat Murray, Karin O’Flanagan, Charlie Sweeney, and Michael Wall (appointed July 2015).

### Membership Development

Considers ways to increase and sustain members.

*Members:* Camilla McAleese (chair), Róisín Lambe, and Alice Travers.

### IGS Review

Undertakes the publication of the Society’s annual magazine and liaises with authors, editors, advertisers and printers.

*Members:* Donough Cahill, Letitia Pollard (editor), and Rose Mary Craig.

## STAFF

Employed by the Foundation in 2015

Executive Director	Donough Cahill
Conservation Research Manager and Deputy Director	Emmeline Henderson
Membership and Events Administrator	Doreen McNamara (retired Sept 2015) Roisin Lambe (appointed August 2015)
Accounts Administrator	Mary Reade
Development Administrator	Zoë Coleman (appointed Sept. 2015)
City Assembly House Administrator	Seamus Hogan
Bookshop	Ally McVitty Lizzie Morrissey

The following interns supported the work of the Society in 2015:

Georgia Corcoran (Tus Intern)  
Roisin Lambe (Job Bridge Intern)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



It is a pleasure to report on the activities of the Foundation and to acknowledge the hard work that the Board, staff and volunteers performed in the course of 2015. As Ireland's architectural conservation society, we are dedicated to protecting Ireland's built heritage and its important landscapes, as well as its decorative arts. In 2015, the fine and decorative arts occupied much of the Society's time.

In March, the long awaited exhibition *Ireland: crossroads of art and design, 1690-1840* was opened at the Art Institute in Chicago amid much excitement. It brought together rarely seen items of furniture, paintings, prints, books, silver, glass and porcelain from public and private collections in the United States of America. Many members of the Board travelled to Chicago to attend a special one-day

conference organised by the Society in association with the Art Institute to coincide with the exhibition's launch, which attracted over a hundred attendees. The exhibition's curator, Christopher Monkhouse, and William Laffan, a member of the Board, who co-edited the lavishly produced catalogue of the exhibition, deserves much praise. This exhibition was followed, in April, by an 'art in the country house' study day at Dublin Castle, which examined the unique collections that country houses have to offer, and the threats they face.

Many of the items in the Chicago exhibition were sold in the twentieth century, particularly during the 1920s. But the threat to Ireland's collections is ever present. The proposed sale of items from Bantry House in Co. Cork was a concern for the Society, and through collaboration with the Crawford Gallery, we assisted the owners in finding an alternative solution. Perhaps of more significance was the proposed sale of a number of paintings from Russborough House, Co. Wicklow, collected by Sir Alfred and Lady Beit, and given in trust for the benefit of the public. The Society campaigned alongside several other organisations to have the sale stopped, and encouraged the Alfred Beit Foundation, in whose trust the house and collection is held, to identify alternative strategies to secure the Beit legacy. I am happy to report that the sale was postponed and some of the paintings bought for the state by private donors. Although the solution still constituted a loss to the Russborough collection, it was the best that could be hoped for.

The good relationship that subsists between the Foundation and Irish Georgian Society Incorporated continues to be sustained through regular contact and communication. The Board held a joint meeting with IGS Inc. in Chicago in March, where we agreed to formulate a memorandum of understanding between the two organisations. Meanwhile the process of reforming the governance structures of the Irish Georgian Trust in the United Kingdom was initiated, and once completed should provide the basis for a better functioning organisation there. The importance of the generous legacies left by UK members to the Society continues to allow us to maintain our small grants conservation scheme, which provides financial support for buildings in urgent need of help.

The Foundation continues to implement the objectives outlined in the Society's strategic plan *Priorities and actions: a strategy for the Society to 2020*. Among the major successes of 2015 was the establishment of a cross-border summer school, expertly coordinated by Primrose Wilson, and led by Kevin Mulligan. In order to be in a position to implement many of the goals in the strategic plan, the Foundation employed, in September, a development administrator, Zoë Coleman, who will assist the Executive Director, President and Board members in fundraising activities.

In November, our president, Patrick Guinness resigned his office after three years of service. The Board is very grateful to Patrick for his work in Ireland, the United States and the United Kingdom in promot-

ing the Society and its activities. At the same time, the Board appointed Sir David Davies as the Society's fourth president, to take up office from January 2016.

I would like to acknowledge the work done by the Finance, Governance, Architectural Conservation and Planning, and the Membership Events committees, as well as the City Assembly House and Newsletter working groups, and the Journal Editorial Board for their continuing dedication to the Society. Without their work the Society could not accomplish the range of programmes, activities and publications that were achieved and produced throughout 2015. In the same respect, the work of our chapters in Birr, Cork, Limerick and Waterford, who organise magnificent events, should be commended. The Board held its April meeting in Cork, with the Cork chapter, which continues the Board's aim to engage more intimately with our chapters.

This year board members, Maura Currivan, Louise Kennedy and Jerry Healy, stepped down after many years of service. It also saw the retirement of Doreen McNamara, who has worked for the Society as its membership events coordinator for twenty-seven years. Her hard work and happy and pleasant demeanour will be greatly missed. In August, Roisin Lambe joined the staff as our new membership events coordinator. She joins a dedicated team, led by Donough Cahill, and including Emmeline Henderson, Seamus Hogan, Mary Reade, Ally McVitty and Lizzie Morrissey. Alongside them are a number of volunteers who work in our bookshop and in the City Assembly House, without whom the place would feel very empty.

*Dr David Fleming*



## CONSERVATION GRANTS

The Society's Conservation Grants Programme awarded funding of €57,000 to nine conservation projects around the country that included churches, thatched cottages, country houses and architectural landmarks. This programme is funded through the support of the Society's London Chapter and funds raised in the United States through the Society's Buildings Conservation Fund.

The following structures received funding:

Support for condition report to assist with roof repairs to Collon Church, Co. Louth, a free standing structure designed in the perpendicular style and loosely modelled on Kings College Chapel, Cambridge [1]

Repair works to the Lion's Gate, Mote Park, Co. Roscommon, the design of which is attributed to the architect James Gandon [2]

Re-thatching of The Mall, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, an early-19th-century dwelling being restored by the Irish Landmark Trust for holiday lets [3]

Roof repairs to Donnybrook House, a c.1750 house that lies on the outskirts of Cork city [4]

Roof repairs at Coollattin House, Co. Wicklow, a large c.1800 country residence originally designed by John Carr of York (1723-1807) [5]

1



2



3



4



5





6



Conservation and repair works to a stained-glass rose c.1861 window at the Presbyterian Church, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin [6]

Structural repairs to 'Tailors' Hall, Back Lane, Dublin, built in 1706, headquarters to An Taisce [7]

Condition report for The Thatched Cottage (c.1780-1800), Co. Donegal, to guide necessary repair works [8]

Roof repairs to the portico and the lantern roof lights at St Paul's Church (c.1837), Dublin, designed by Patrick Byrne (1783-1864) [9]

For further information about the projects supported in 2015 see the Society's website: [www.igs.ie](http://www.igs.ie).

7



9



8



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

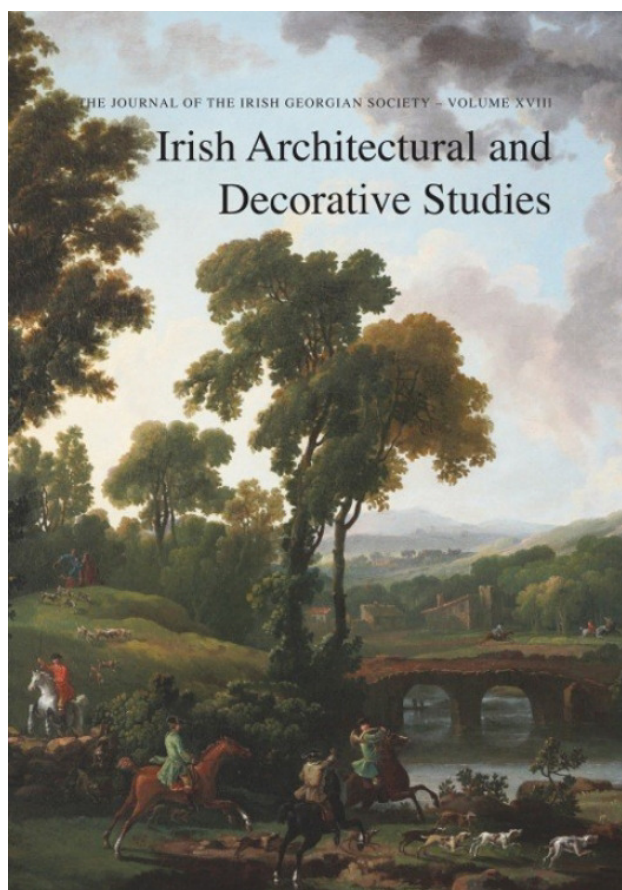


In fulfilling its role to conserve, protect and foster an interest in Ireland's architectural heritage and decorative arts, the Irish Georgian Society delivered a range of education and conservation programmes throughout 2015. Central to the delivery of these are the Society's programmes for Scholarship, Conservation Education, Conservation Grants, Planning, Policy and Buildings-at-Risk, and Membership Events.

### Scholarship programme

#### *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*

The Society's annual journal, *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*, reflects its wide remit and embraces the entire spectrum of Ireland's post-medieval architecture. In March 2015 Professor. Finola O'Kane Crimmins (School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, UCD), succeeded Dr Conor Lucey as editor. Her recent publications include *Ireland and the picturesque: design, landscape painting and tourism in Ireland 1700–1840* (2013) and *William Ashford's Mount Merrion: the absent point of view* (2012). Vol. XVIII of the journal contained the following articles:



Ruth Musielak, 'Bathing in porphyry on the banks of the River Liffey: Lord Charlemont's missed opportunity'

William Laffan, "'Imitators of one another': a source for George Barret"

Gabor Gelléri, 'An unknown "creator" of picturesque Ireland: the Irish sketches and notes of Luttrell Wynne, the "Gentleman of Oxford"'

Rachel Finnegan, 'Frederick, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Bessborough, collector and artist, 1758-1844'

Laura Johnstone, "'On one level to the eye"; visions for suburbia on the Longford de Vesci estate in Dublin'

Sinéad Gargan, 'How not to "encourage people to take lotts for building"; the 18<sup>th</sup>-century non-development of Grangegorman by the Monk estate'

Claudia Kinmonth, 'Noggins, "the nicest work of all"; traditional Irish wooden vessels for eating and drinking'

John Walker's (1763-1830), a short dissertation on planting, for Lady Louisa Conolly'

#### *Desmond Guinness Scholarship*

The Desmond Guinness Scholarship 2015 was awarded to Bláithín Hurley for her research into Daniel Maclise's largely unpublished autobiography at the Royal Academy of Arts, London and his unpublished letters at the National Art Museum, London. A separate prize was awarded to Myles McKenna for his research on the Wentworth papers in the British Library where he will focus on the period 1729 to 1754, during which William Conolly made alterations to Castletown.



### *Symposium: Ireland: Crossroads of Art and Design, 1690–1840*

Together with the Art Institute of Chicago, the Society hosted a symposium on 20–21 March to coincide with the exhibition *Ireland: Crossroads of Art and Design, 1690–1840* which saw international scholars explore Ireland's rich cultural heritage. This outstanding exhibition had a long gestation and had been encouraged by the Society's late President, the Knight of Glin, for many years. Beautiful examples of furniture, glass, silver, ceramics, books and other items were identified in public and private American collections, which together told the story of Irish material culture over a century of rapid change and development.

Author Stella Tillyard delivered the symposium's keynote address on 'Collecting the world: how global art came to Ireland in the eighteenth century'. Following the symposium the Society held the launch of Vol. XVII of *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies* in the University Club of Chicago.

The symposium was sponsored by the Irish Georgian Society, along with the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, the Philip and Betsey C. Caldwell Foundation, and Christie's.

The following papers were delivered at the symposium:

'Introduction' by the co-organisers of the exhibition, Christopher Monkhouse, Eloise W. Martin Chair and Curator of European Decorative Arts, and William Laffan, independent scholar

'Painting and touring the Irish landscape', Finola O'Kane Crimmins, School of Architecture, Landscape, and Environmental Policy, University College, Dublin

'Irish art at the National Gallery', Brendan Rooney, curator of Irish Art at the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin

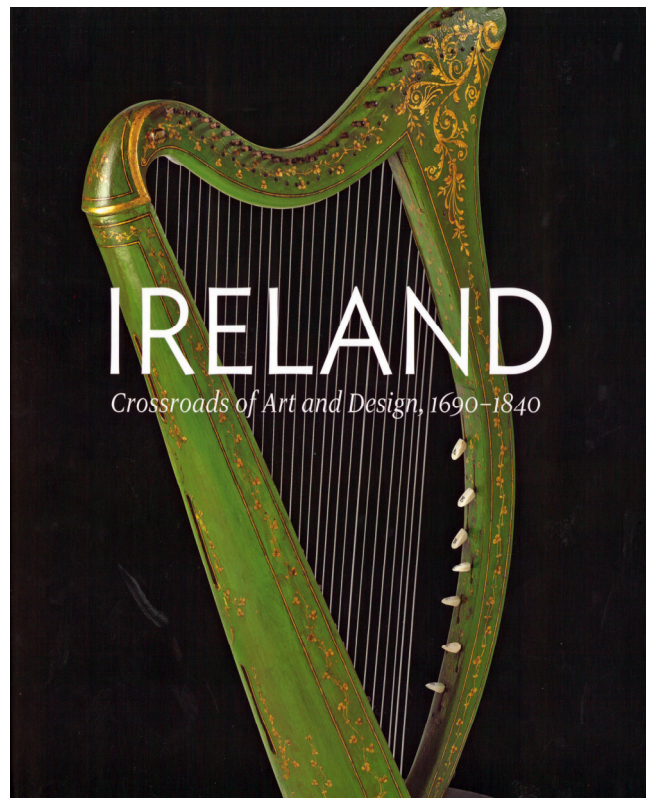
'Buying and selling: the transfer of art in and out of Ireland', Robert O'Byrne, independent scholar

'Irish furniture', James Peill, curator of the Goodwood Estate

'Patina, pomp, and prestige: silver in Ireland, 1690–1840', Alison FitzGerald, lecturer, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

'Burned with turf: the unique charm of Irish ceramics and the myths of Irish glass', Peter Francis, independent scholar

'Closing remarks', Julian Sands, actor and Irish silver collector



### **Conservation Education programme**

The core activities of the Society's Conservation Education programme in 2015 included an inaugural summer school, a conservation seminar series organised in association with Dublin City Council, the organisation of the annual Traditional Building Skills Exhibition in Glendalough in association with Wicklow County Council and the OPW, and the delivery of two study days, one in Dublin Castle, the other in Russborough, Co. Wicklow.



Some of the attendees at the *Conservation Without Frontiers* Summer School at Castle Leslie

*Summer School (in association with the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society)*

This year the Society collaborated with the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society to inaugurate a Summer School (25-27 June) dedicated to the study of architecture, planning and related issues. The first school *Conservation Without Frontiers* focussed on the counties of Armagh and Monaghan, and was supported by Monaghan County Council, Armagh Urban and District Council and the Heritage Council. The school attracted a range of professionals, students and members of both societies. The School was organised by Primrose Wilson, with academic director, Kevin Mulligan.

25 June: Synod Hall, Armagh and Armagh Public Library, Armagh

'Historical and geographical contexts for south Ulster's built environment', Prof Patrick Duffy, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

'Historic arrangement of church interiors', Dr Michael O'Neill, architectural historian

'Places of public worship and the Planning and Development Act', Dr Fredrick O'Dwyer, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

'Ecclesiastical exemption in Northern Ireland', Manus Deery, Northern Ireland Environment Agency

'New work and reordering: current practice in England', Andrew Derrick, Architectural Heritage Practice

'Introduction to conservation areas', Kevin Mulligan, architectural historian

'Conservation areas: Armagh', Damien Mulligan, Planning Manager ACBC

'Architectural conservation areas in practice', Richard McLoughlin, Lotts Architecture + Urbanism

'Restoration within a conservation area, with reference to Whaley's Buildings' Marcus Patton, HEARTH

'The architecture of Thomas Cooley and Francis Johnston', Judith Hill, architectural historian



#### Site visits

St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, guide: Professor Alistair Rowan

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral, guide: Kevin Mulligan

Whaley's Buildings, 48-58 Castle Street, 2-12 Upper Irish Street, 32-40 Chapel Lane Mall and Market Square  
Armagh, guides: Alastair Coey, Dr E. McParland, Marcus Patton

Visit to Primate's Palace, chapel and demesne, guides: Dr E. McParland, Kevin Mulligan, Primrose Wilson

26 June, Castle Leslie, Co. Monaghan

'Welcome', Sammie Leslie

'Heritage and housing', Dawson Stelfox, Consarc Design

'Cross border heritage initiatives', Dr. Andrew McClelland, The Institute of Historic Building Conservation

'*The Buildings of Ireland Series*', Prof Alistair Rowan, founding editor, *Buildings of Ireland*

#### Site visits

Glaslough, guide: Dawson Stelfox

Dartrey Mausoleum, guide: Noel Carney

St. Peter's Laragh, guide: Paula McCall

Macartan's Cathedral, introduced by Bishop Joseph Duffy; guide: Prof. Alistair Rowan

Monaghan town, guides: Kevin Mulligan and Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer Monahan County Council

27 June: Market House, Monaghan

Debate: 'Contemplating the contemporary: new works in the historic environment' Moderator: Frank McNally,  
*Irish Times*

Summer School Student Awards

#### Site visit

Annaghmakerrig, Tyrone Guthrie Centre, guide: Christopher FitzSimon

### *Conserving your Dublin Period House: Spring 2015*

A twelve-week lunchtime lecture series presented by the Society and Dublin City Council held in March, April and May 2015 at the City Assembly House, during which the following seminars were delivered:

'Dublin's domestic architecture: its historic stylistic evolution', Charles Duggan, Heritage Officer, Dublin City Council

'A stitch in time saves nine: practical building conservation and maintenance', Frank Keohane, Chartered Building Surveyor accredited in Building Conservation

'Historic windows: their history, significance and conservation', Dr Nessa Roche, Architectural Heritage Advisory Unit, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

'My house is a protected structure: what does this mean? Examining policy and legislation', Jacqui Donnelly, Architectural Heritage Advisory Unit, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

'Energy performance in protected structures: planning implications and grants' Carl Raftery and Sarah Halpin, Conservation Research Officers, Dublin City Council

'Dublin's historic doors and staircases: their stylistic evolution and conservation', Peter Clarke, retired lecturer, Dublin Institute of Technology

'Historic ironwork: its history, significance and conservation', Karl Rapple, member of the Irish Artistic Blacksmiths' Association

'Historic bricks: their history, significance and conservation', Susan Roundtree, former Senior Architect, Dublin City Council

*Art in the Country House, George's Hall, Upper Castle Yard, Dublin Castle, 23 April 2015*

The Art in the Country House conference coincided with the Art Institute of Chicago's exhibition *Ireland: Crossroads of Art and Design* and traced the cycle of the acquisition and dispersal of great collections in Ireland, while also exploring the lively intersection of art and the country house in the present day. The following presentations were delivered by leading scholars from Ireland, Britain and the USA.



Attendees in George's Hall, Dublin Castle



Peter Murray

Session one: Acquisition

'Irish collectors of classical sculpture: from Downhill to Russborough and the Getty Venus', Dr Lynda Mulvin

'Castletown: reflections on the re-arrangement of the Red Drawing Room', Dr Aidan O'Boyle

'The Decius Mus Suite of Tapestries at Kilkenny Castle', Dr Jane Fenlon

'The Murillos from Ballyfin and Castletown and the taste for Murillo in Ireland', Dr Philip McEvansoneya

Session two: Dispersal

'Sales from the Irish country house', Robert O'Byrne

Keynote address: 'Moving objects: a pictorial progress from the Irish country house to North American collections', Christopher Monkhouse

'Great houses in peril: Bantry House', Peter Murray

'Oculi Desolationem: the disappearance of the Bellamont busts', Kevin Mulligan

Session three: Art in the country house today

'A unique survival in Ireland: an old master picture gallery of 1764 complete with its original collection: some entries and exits over the centuries', Alec Cobbe

'Art at Burtown: tradition and innovation', James Fennell

'The challenges of keeping collections in country houses today', Susan Kellett

'The relationship between the country house and the period room', Giles Waterfield.

### *Heritage Housekeeping Philosophy and Practice, Russborough House, 26 November 2015*

The Society, in association with The Institute of Conservators-Restorers in Ireland (ICRI), partnered to deliver a good housekeeping in historic houses study day in Russborough House on 26 November. Owners, managers and curators of heritage properties, both in public and private care, gathered to learn about the importance of good housekeeping and receive expert advice on the care and conservation of their collections.



Sevn Habermann demonstrating how to dust



Speakers (l-r): Kathy Lithgow, Sven Habermann, Simone Mancini, Fergus Purdy, Susan Corr and Lesley Ann Hayden

#### Session one:

Keynote address 'Good housekeeping in historic houses: philosophy and practice', Katy Lithgow, Head of Conservation, The National Trust, UK

'Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) and the historic house collection', Lesley-Ann Hayden, The Heritage Council's MSPI Coordinator

#### Session two:

'Care and preventative conservation of prints, drawings and archival material in historic houses', Susan Corr, President of European Confederation of Conservators and Restorers' Organisation

'Integrated pest management in heritage properties: alternative ways of combating heritage eaters', Sven Habermann, Manager, Conservation Letterfrack

#### Session three:

'Care of furniture in the historic house setting', Fergus Purdy, furniture conservator

'Displaying oil paintings in historic houses: conservation principles, care and maintenance', Simone Mancini, Head of Conservation at National Gallery of Ireland

'How to preserve textiles in the historic house', Clodna Devitt, textile conservator

#### Session four:

'Care and cleaning of historic objects in heritage properties: a hands on practical demonstration using artefacts from Russborough's collection for exemplar/case studies' Sven Habermann, Manager, Conservation Letterfrack.



## *Wicklow's Heritage Building Show, 2015*

The Society partnered with Wicklow County Council and the OPW to present *Wicklow's Heritage Buildings Show 2015*. The exhibition took place on 19 and 20 September on the grounds of the OPW's Glendalough Visitor Centre, with the accompanying talks taking place in the adjacent Glendalough Hotel. Exhibitors included: Alan Jackson of Woodfield Joinery and Francis Tutty of Tutty Sash Windows, who both demonstrated traditional timber sash window repairs; Anthony Murray of Custom Crew who demonstrated traditional slate roofing; Kyran O'Grady of Wicklow Thatching Services; Andre Smith of Smith and Henderson Stuccodores; Stephen Kelly of George O'Malley Plastering who demonstrated decorative plasterwork conservation; Dermot Colier of ACOL demonstrated wig and tuck pointing of bricks; Liam and John McCorkell of Glashaugh Studios showcased the traditional making and conservation of fanlights and stained glass; Philip Quinn of Stonemad demonstrated traditional stone carving; Edward Byrne and Paddy McCutcheon demonstrated the use of traditional lime mortars and paints; Ruth Bothwell of Decowell demonstrated gilding, marbling and historic paint effects; Austin Jordan of Clock Jordan demonstrated antique clock repair; Grant Hutchinson of the Old Builders Company demonstrated the benefits of using traditional materials such as lime and hemp in construction, conservation and energy upgrading works to old buildings; Feile Butler of Mud and Wood demonstrated traditional mud and earthen construction; Julie Fallon of Opus Mosaics demonstrated the making of traditional mosaics; Paul Gaffney of the Stripy Paint Company presented ethically salvaged and repurposed architectural artefacts; Des, John and Dave McEvoy of C. McEvoy and Sons Wicklow Granite demonstrated granite stonecutting; and Terry O' Flaherty of Stonework by Design demonstrated traditional dry stone wall construction.



Eoin Donnelly pole lathe turning



Ruth Bothwell and Simon Harris, TD, minister of state with responsibility for the OPW

## 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.

### *Planning submissions*

The following observations were made in 2015:

Whitewood House: observation on appeal against the grant of permission for a wind farm that would have detrimentally affected vistas from the Richard Castle designed house

Larchill Arcadian Gardens: observation on appeal against the grant of permission for the expansion of a composting facility on lands adjoining the parklands

ESB Headquarters, Fitzwilliam Street: observation on appeal to redevelopment proposals

Rutland Memorial: letter to DCC advising against the adoption of outline proposals for modifications to the Rutland Memorial

### *Policy submissions*

Submission to Dublin City Council on its Draft City Development Plan, 2016-22

Submission to Dublin City Council on guidelines for the treatment of antique stone paving

Submission to the public consultation on the preparation of a new Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area

Submission to Cork County Council on proposed rezoning of lands at Castle Barnard, Bandon

Submission to Dept. of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's 'nationwide conversation on Ireland's first ever national cultural policy'

### *Seminars and talks*

25 February: Joint IGS/Irish Landscape Institute seminar on 'Historic landscape: loved, lost or in limbo'. The seminar provided practical advice to professionals working in development management on key elements of best conservation practice for historic landscapes.

Talk by Donough Cahill and Amy Hastings to DIT planning students on the IGS and current conservation issues.

### *Public Relations*

Russborough

'Russborough to sell Old Masters to fund upkeep of house', *Irish Times*, 12 May 2015

'There are no laws to prevent the sale of our fine-art heritage', *Irish Independent*, 21 June 2015

'Heather Humphreys told Beit art sale was a 'done deal'', *Irish Times*, 16 June 2015

'The flight of the Beits', *Irish Times*, 13 June 2015

'Potential Irish purchase of Beit paintings 'very welcome'', *Irish Times*, 23 June 2015

'State lacks funds to buy Russborough paintings', *Irish Independent*, 18 May 2015

'Russborough's priceless old masters are held in trust for the nation - don't sell them', *Irish Independent*, 9 June 2015

'Some Russborough paintings may be sold', *Irish Times*, 23 July 2015

'Heather Humphreys says 'door still open' to Beit trustees', *Irish Times*, 20 June 2015

'Sale of Old Masters Sets Off an Outcry in Ireland', *The New York Times*, 2 June 2015

'Selling the collection to save the house: Russborough and Irish heritage', *Apollo*, 18 May 2015

ESB, Fitzwilliam Street

'Frank McDonald: Time for ESB to reinstate Georgian houses on Fitzwilliam Street?', *Irish Times*, 3 June 2015

'Giving a Georgian street its pride back', *Irish Independent*, 29 March 2015

'Claims new ESB building would improve Unesco bid', *Irish Times*, 4 June 2015

### *Other Planning*

'Will the mews go to the money or to the museum', *Dublin Enquirer*, 11 November 2015

'Isn't There a Better Place for Buses to Park than Merrion Square?', *Dublin Enquirer*, 15 September 2015

'Final offers sought for 1000 acre historic home at €1.5m', *Irish Times*, 10 May 2015

'Council plan to knock hole in Merrion Sq fountain is opposed', *The Herald*, 26 October 2015





Above: Portrait of a bearded man, by Sir Peter Paul Rubens

The Society joined other heritage, cultural and arts organisations to vigorously oppose the proposed sale of several master pieces from the Beit collection at Russborough, Co. Wicklow. After an intense campaign, the paintings were withdrawn from the sale, some of which were purchased by individuals and given to the National Gallery of Ireland. The Society worked hard to encourage the government and other bodies to engage with the Alfred Beit Foundation to address the funding shortfall that Russborough faces.





Above: The Foxes Earth, Larchill Arcadian Gardens, Co. Kildare.

The Society opposed the construction of a road adjacent to Larchill Arcadian gardens, in Co. Kildare, proposed by a nearby composting facility, which would have detrimentally affected views from the gardens. Unfortunately, permission was granted to construct the road.

Below: The Society made an observation to Dublin City Council on a proposal to alter the Rutland Memorial, Merion Square, Dublin.



## Membership Events Programme

The lectures and tours included in the Society's Membership Events Programme continued to be a great success in 2015 and were delivered through the Membership Events Committee in Dublin and through the Society's chapters in Ireland and abroad. As an educational body, these events provide a core means for members to learn about Ireland's architectural heritage and decorative arts. The range and diversity of these events reflects the diverse nature of Ireland's architecture, landscapes, and the decorative and fine arts. The following is an outline of the Society's membership events throughout 2015.

### *Membership Events Programme*

The Society's membership events programme includes lectures, tours and parties that are organised by the Membership and Events Committee and by the committees of its chapters in Ireland, London and the United States.

The following events were held in 2015:

<i>January</i>	Lecture 'Patina or novelty? buying luxury goods in Georgian Dublin' by Dr Alison FitzGerald
<i>January</i>	Lecture '300 years of the Mansion House' by Nicola Matthews
<i>February</i>	Lecture 'Wallpaper in Ireland 1700-1900' by David Skinner
<i>February</i>	New members' reception
<i>February</i>	Lecture 'Madame de Pompadour: a chronology of her life as a patron of the Sèvres Factory' by Dame Rosalind Savill
<i>March</i>	Lecture 'Sir John Keane and the rebuilding of Cappoquin House' by Glascott Symes
<i>March</i>	Visit to the Mansion House with Dr. Mary Clarke
<i>March</i>	Lecture 'Re-inventing Waterford for its 1100th Birthday' by Eamonn McEneaney
<i>March</i>	Tour to St. Mel's Cathedral and Ledwithstown House, Longford
<i>March</i>	Morning walk in Glasnevin with John Holohan
<i>April</i>	Lecture 'The jewel in the crown of Aungier Street: the past, present and future of Dublin's oldest house' by Sunni L. Goodson and Thomas C. McGimsey
<i>April</i>	Presentation 'St. Mel's: rising from the ashes' by Colm Remond and Anne Cuffe Fitzgerald
<i>April</i>	YIG Tour with members of the Kildare Street and University Club to Henrietta Street
<i>April</i>	Walking tour of 17th Century Ireland with Nicola Matthews
<i>April</i>	Lecture 'All that glitters: jewellers and gems in Georgian Ireland' by Zara Power
<i>May</i>	Tour of Wicklow with Pat Murray
<i>May</i>	Tour of mid-twentieth-century Dublin architecture with Dr Ellen Rowley and Charles Duggan
<i>May</i>	Trip to Chicago with Glascott Symes
<i>July</i>	Tour to Lambay Island
<i>July</i>	Walking tour of the Royal Canal with Peter Clarke
<i>July</i>	Walking tour of Dublin's North City with Joseph Lynch
<i>July</i>	Summer drinks in Sandford Road, Ranelagh
<i>July</i>	Walking tour of Dublin's City Centre East with Arran Henderson
<i>July</i>	Tour to Meath with Johnnie McCoy
<i>August</i>	Walking tour of Dublin's City Centre East with Arran Henderson
<i>August</i>	Morning tour of Dun Laoghaire with Rose Mary Craig
<i>August</i>	Walking tour of Dublin's North City with Joseph Lynch
<i>September</i>	Benefactor and Patron Lunch in Glin Castle
<i>September</i>	Tour of twentieth-century Dublin architecture with Dr Ellen Rowley, Donal Hickey and Charles Duggan
<i>October</i>	Tour to Kildare and Carlow with Pat Murray
<i>October</i>	Two tours of Trieste with Rose Mary Craig
<i>November</i>	Visit to Provost's House in TCD with Dr Edward McParland
<i>December</i>	Christmas Party at Rathfarnham Castle



1



1. In the Great Hall at Kilua Castle, Co. Westmeath.

2. Volunteers assisting with the autumn mailshot to members.

3. Summer Party attendees at Lissen Hall, Co. Dublin

4. Visiting Balrath House, Co. Meath.

2



3



4



### **Birr and Midlands Chapter**

<i>July</i>	Tour to Cos Louth and Meath
<i>December</i>	Christmas Party at Birr Castle

### **Cork Chapter**

<i>April</i>	Tour to Conna, Co. Cork
<i>June</i>	Tour to Cashel, Co. Tipperary
<i>July</i>	Tour to Killarney, Co. Kerry

### **Limerick Chapter**

<i>February</i>	Lecture 'The modern movement in Limerick' by Emma Gilleece
<i>March</i>	Lecture 'A landscape of the senses' by Ailish Drake
<i>May</i>	Tour to Gloster House and Damer House
<i>June</i>	Tour to Castlegarde
<i>November</i>	Lecture 'Housing crisis? Georgian Lab' by Martin Lennon

### **London Chapter**

<i>January</i>	Visit to Brompton Square
<i>January</i>	Lecture 'The work of the Follies Trust' by Primrose Wilson
<i>March</i>	Saint Patrick's Day party and events review
<i>April</i>	Tour of great London houses with Rose Mary Craig
<i>April</i>	Dinner at the Landsdown Club
<i>April</i>	Tour of St Paul's Cathedral, Triforium
<i>May</i>	Visit to the Soane Museum with Dr Frances Sands
<i>May</i>	Tour of southern Ireland with the 20-Ghost Club led by John Redmill
<i>September</i>	Tour of Chateaux of North Normandy led by Rob van Mesdag
<i>October</i>	YIG visit to Hotel Café Royal led by Fiona Raley
<i>October</i>	Visit to 20 St James's Square led by Dr Frances Sands
<i>November</i>	Lecture 'Russborough: a great Irish house: its families and collections' by William Laffin and Kevin Mulligan
<i>November</i>	Pre-Christmas Dinner at the Savile Club

### **IGS Incorporated (USA)**

<i>March</i>	Exhibition launch: <i>Ireland: Crossroads of Art and Design, 1690-1840</i>
<i>April</i>	Lecture 'The Irish country house today' by Robert O' Byrne
<i>September</i>	Tour of landscapes, seascapes and houses of Ireland, with Marianne Gorman
<i>September</i>	Lecture 'Secrets of the Palace: Hillsborough Castle Revealed' by Dr Christopher Warleigh-Lack
<i>October</i>	New York Gala Dinner
<i>October</i>	Lecture 'The beauties of Blackwater' by Robert O' Byrne
<i>October</i>	Chicago Gala Dinner
<i>November</i>	Panel Discussion 'We built this city' with Shiben Banerji, Ellen Grimes, Billy Lawless, Vincent L. Michael, John E. Sheridan and Timothy Mennel



## City Assembly House cultural programme 2015

<i>January</i>	<i>I Have To Say, I Have To Say</i> , installation by Ciara McKeon as part of Dublin's First Fort-night Festival
<i>January</i>	<i>City, Assembled: A Moving Panorama Inspired by the Civic Exhibition 1914</i> , collaboration between the School of Architecture, University College Dublin and the National Film School at the Institute of Art, Design and Technology.
<i>February</i>	Olivier Cornet Gallery <i>A Terrible Beauty</i> , Touring Group
<i>February</i>	Dublin Documentary Festival
<i>March</i>	Royal Irish Academy and Dublin City Council, launch of <i>Historic Towns' Atlas of Dublin</i>
<i>March</i>	Grafton Architects one day school with Swiss students
<i>March</i>	<i>Yeats Show</i> , Dublin Painting and Sketching Club:
<i>March</i>	Dublin Dance Festival 2015 Launch
<i>March</i>	Kenneth Donfield exhibition in the Daniel O'Connell Room
<i>March</i>	Tom Heran exhibition in the Exhibition Room
<i>March</i>	The Strung Series, concert, Claire Duff and Baroque Violin
<i>March</i>	Irish Composers on Irish Music: Benjamin Dwyer (guitar)
<i>March</i>	Launch of Future Wave Film Festival
<i>April</i>	'Counterpoint', Jordi Fornies's solo show, Olivier Cornett Gallery,
<i>April</i>	Rubikon Gallery exhibition of Michael Kane's work
<i>April</i>	James Barry prints exhibition, Daniel O'Connell Room
<i>April</i>	Exhibition of landscape paintings by Countess of Rosse, small gallery
<i>April</i>	Dublin Music Town
<i>May</i>	Architectural Association of Ireland awards exhibition
<i>June</i>	James Hanley exhibition
<i>July</i>	Photo Ireland exhibition
<i>July</i>	The Kildare Biennale
<i>July</i>	<i>Tbilisian Turnings</i> by Katia Potapova, a photographic exhibition of Tbilisi
<i>August</i>	David Scarf exhibition
<i>September</i>	<i>My Diary</i> , Miseon Lee's solo exhibition
<i>October</i>	Describing Architecture, <i>Memory and Place</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Mexican Irish Cemetery</i> exhibition by photographer Alejandro Gomez de Tuddo supported
<i>November</i>	<i>The Odyssey</i> exhibition by artist Anja Aichinger
<i>December</i>	Dublin Book Festival
<i>December</i>	<i>Vietnam 40</i> , photographic exhibition in Exhibition Room with Ian Thuillier
<i>December</i>	Art exhibition in Daniel O'Connell Room in association with the Irish Cancer Society

*Donough Cabill*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Financial results, 2015 – Irish Georgian Foundation



On the opposite page we tabulate the financial results for the year in the traditional income and expenditure format which has been presented to Society members consistently for many years.

The audited financial statements for the year are now, from the beginning of 2015, drawn up under Companies Act, 2014, the Charities Act 2009 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities, SORP FRS 102. Copies of the audited financials are available at our Annual Meeting for inspection by members and will be filed with the Companies Registration Office and the Charities Regulatory Authority during October.

The income and expenditure account shows that the Society incurred an operating deficit of €57,582 before a transfer credit of €43,750 was made from reserves, to result in a deficit of €13,832 for the year. It is likely that operating deficits will continue while large scale use of the City Assembly House continues to be restricted by fire regulations which curtail the numbers that can be accommodated at paid events. It is only when phase two of the building's conservation is completed and the basement space is leased out that we will see a return to increased rental income and operating surpluses. Fortunately we have the benefit of cash reserves, mainly the bequest fund established by the late Mrs Elizabeth Burke, to get us through this important transition phase for the Society.

Staff costs represent more than half of our total expenditure and during the year we recruited a Development administrator to assist with the fundraising efforts of the Society.

This will be my final report as Treasurer to the Society as I retire from the Board under its rotation rules in 2016. I am very happy to hand over to the Deputy Treasurer, Charlie Sweeney. Like myself Charlie is a chartered accountant and has been much involved in all aspects of the Society's finances for many years. I will continue to be involved with the Society's Finance and Governance Committees.

*Brian Redmond*

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 €	2014 €
INCOME			
Irish Georgian Society: members' subscriptions	1	133,799	131,581
Donations, bequests and other funds raised	2	49,720	90,141
Income tax recovered on certain donations		12,729	2,026
Net income from operations		140,004	127,319
Deposit interest and investment income		1,599	7,472
Grant amortisation		21,548	19,612
Total income		359,399	378,151
EXPENDITURE			
<i>Education, communication and administrative expenses</i>			
Salaries		(233,895)	(215,928)
Pension costs		(15,683)	(17,202)
Ex-gratia payment (retired employee)		(15,000)	-
Operational expenses and information technology		(57,784)	(57,727)
Office rent and storage		(1,000)	(1,000)
Publications, postage and stationery		(31,805)	(37,768)
Bank interest and charges		(6,209)	(5,977)
Professional fees		(8,731)	(8,767)
Motor, travelling and fund-raising expenses		(12,776)	(17,013)
Insurance		(6,003)	(9,421)
Depreciation of and loss on disposal of fixed assets		(28,095)	(23,277)
Total expenditure		(416,981)	(394,080)
Deficit for year (general funds)		(57,582)	(15,929)
Support from bequest fund		43,750	20,835
(Deficit) surplus for year (general funds)		(13,832)	4,906

## NOTES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

31 December 2015

### PRESENTATION

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 with 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.

#### 1. IGS MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS

	<i>2015</i>	<i>2014</i>
	€	€
Ireland	99,119	100,387
United Kingdom	19,334	15,059
Europe	101	90
United States of America	15,245	16,045
	<u>133,799</u>	<u>131,581</u>

The Irish subscriptions for 2015 include a new corporate member for which the aggregate subscriptions were €2,000 (for 2014 there was one new Life and one new Corporate member with aggregate subscriptions of €4,500).

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Paid active membership figures at 31 December are	<u>1,841</u>	<u>1,708</u>

#### 2. DONATIONS, BEQUESTS, AND OTHER FUNDS RAISED

	<i>2015</i>	<i>2014</i>
	€	€
Bequests	18,209	52,370
JP Getty Foundation	13,299	17,992
Grace Jones Richardson Foundation	4,579	7,317
Furniture History Society	-	1,200
Other donations	5,789	11,262
Esme Mitchel	1,784	-
Corporate donations	6,060	-
	<u>49,720</u>	<u>90,141</u>

**NOTES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT continued**  
**31 December 2015**

3. GRANTS PAID

Since 2014 the Foundation has operated a small grants programme with funding from our London Chapter and other sources. The following grants were made from restricted funds:

Programme year	2015	2014
	€	€
Fund designated for programme year	57,000	51,000
Grant payments for approved projects	(10,681)	(43,300)
Balance unspent at 31 December	<u>46,319</u>	<u>7,770</u>

Details of the projects funded are given on pp. 10-11.

4. 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. Since then the Foundation facilitated a number of public events and exhibitions in the building and will extend the range of these when phase two of its conservation work has been completed.

The Foundation has plans for the second phase of the conservation project. The Foundation continues to raise funds to enable the restoration of the unique octagonal room in 2017 and had (at 31 December 2015) over €234,000 on deposit for this purpose, with pledges of additional funding.

5. HERITAGE ASSETS

The Foundation owns a collection of furniture and artefacts, most of which are on display in Castletown House. The items in Castletown House and in other houses owned by the Foundation had a valuation of €1,070,152 as at 31 December 2015 (2014: €1,064,979) which includes a collection of miniature portraits valued at €70,000, which were donated to the Foundation in 2015.

