

# Conservation Education Celebration

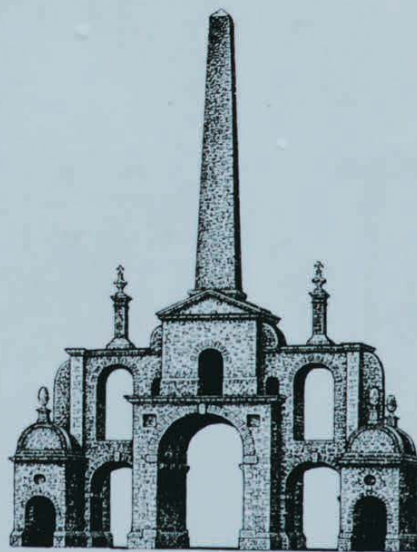


IN DUBLIN'S SOUTH WILLIAM STREET, THE IRISH  
GEORGIAN SOCIETY IS PRESERVING IRELAND'S RICH  
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
THE IRELAND FUNDS.

Donough Cahill,  
Executive Director  
Irish Georgian Society



Irish  
Georgian  
Society





*The Irish Georgian Society (IGS) champions the protection of Ireland's architectural and decorative arts heritage which together form an essential part of the country's rich cultural patrimony. Here, Irish Georgian Society Executive Director Donough Cahill explains why support for that heritage is so key.*

The Society was founded nearly sixty years ago and today is busier than ever with a range of educational, scholarly, and conservation programs. Its thriving membership and Chapters around Ireland, in London, and in Chicago, Dallas, New York and Palm Beach, enjoy lectures, tours and special events to support these initiatives and one of its most ambitious projects to date: the restoration of the magnificent City Assembly House, an eighteenth-century building of national architectural and historic importance, as a new headquarters and cultural venue in the historic heart of Dublin.

#### CITY ASSEMBLY HOUSE — THE HISTORIC HEART OF DUBLIN

For much of 200 years, this gem of Irish Georgian architecture sat unused for its original intent: to educate and showcase the work of Irish artists. It is the historic heart of Dublin and the IGS is undertaking a full restoration of the building to its full potential. Situated in one of the city's most vibrant areas with restaurants, coffee shops, and boutique stores lining its streets and laneways, the City Assembly House has been home to the Irish Georgian Society since May 2013 when it completed the first of a two part restoration of the building.

This important conservation initiative is being undertaken with the support of Dublin City Council and through the generosity of supporters in Ireland and the USA. The Irish Georgian Society's US members, The Ireland Funds and the Jerome L. Greene Foundation have been particularly supportive and the completion of the project will represent a triumph for their commitment to Ireland's built heritage.

Since 2013, the Society has been on a fantastic journey during which it has hosted art exhibitions, musical and theatrical performances, and educational events which together have drawn tens of thousands of visitors to the building. These hugely successful events have set the scene for the completion of the restoration project by 2016 which will see the transformation of the City Assembly House from a vacant, rundown shell to a vibrant center of culture.

#### EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Irish Georgian Society engages in a wide range of educational activities on a nationwide basis and always looks to involve local organizations to ensure it reaches as broad an audience as possible. The Irish Georgian Society's educational programs are a vital part of its work and place it in a leading role as a local and national voice for Ireland's heritage. In promoting the conservation of historic buildings, the Society runs lectures, courses, and exhibitions and this year partnered with a range of county and city councils in this regard.

In highlighting Ireland's decorative arts heritage the Society organizes study days which have recently focused on Westport House, Co. Mayo in partnership with Westport Town Council, and on the lost historic parklands around the exquisite Casino at Marino, which was held by the Office of Public Works.

Joint winners of the 2014  
Irish Georgian Society  
Architectural Conservation  
Awards: Blackrock Institute  
of Further Education, Co.  
Dublin and the The Guild-  
hall, Derry/Londonderry



Jeremy Irons, who delivered  
a talk on his restoration  
of Kilcoe Castle, Co.  
Cork, with conservation  
specialist George O'Malley  
at the 2014 IGS Traditional  
Building Skills Exhibition  
in Limerick.





*Describing Architecture in the Knight of Glin Exhibition Room, City Assembly House, during Open House 2014.*



The Daniel O'Connell Room, City Assembly House, restored with the support of the Jerome L Greene Foundation

FOR THOSE THAT HAVE AN ENTHUSIASM FOR IRELAND'S CULTURAL HERITAGE, THE IRISH GEORGIAN SOCIETY OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSERVE AND CELEBRATE THESE UNIQUE ARCHITECTURAL FACETS OF IRELAND.