

Guisse Mausoleum, Elmore Church, Glos.

MAUSOLUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAUSOLEA & MONUMENTS TRUST

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The Guisse Mausoleum at Elmore, Gloucestershire, photographed before its dramatic collapse in 1915

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The (Dis)Guise(d) Mausoleum at Elmore

Charles Wagner

One of the aspirations of our foundress Jill Allibone was that the Mausolea & Monuments Trust should become owner of last resort for the unloved but important listed mausolea in Britain. Since Jill's untimely death in 1998, the Trust has added one mausoleum, the Boileau Mausoleum in Norfolk, to the collection of five friendless structures of which she acquired the title deeds. Of these, the Bateman Mausoleum in Derbyshire, the Heathcote Mausoleum in Hampshire, and the Wynne-Ellis and Nash Mausolea in Kent are all in a reasonably good state of repair. Only the Guise Mausoleum, in the Vale of the Severn, south of Gloucester, was taken on by the Trust as a ruin and continues to decay.

So why did Jill assume responsibility for this structure, which had been reduced to a ruin by a major collapse during evening prayer one Sunday in 1915 and has suffered nearly 75 years of decay since? The Guise family still

owns the part of the churchyard on which the remains of the structure have been laid out, as well as their nearby ancestral home - Elmore Court - and much of the land in the parish. Over the years, the ruin has gradually disappeared into undergrowth and the rising ground level, presenting a considerable challenge to its conservators. Jill's motive was that the baronet at this time had little interest in this important aspect of his inheritance and, in the early 1990s, the building had become a *cause célèbre* for the Georgian Group.

For many years, the mausoleum attracted hardly any attention. In the 1970 Buildings of England volume *Gloucestershire: the Vale of the Severn and the Forest of Dean*, though the churchyard merits a paragraph, the tomb gets barely a footnote 'Also the ruined remains of a C18 mausoleum'. When the parish was surveyed as part of the revision of listed buildings in the 1980s it was not recognised as of sufficient architectural or historic importance to add to the list.

Sir Howard Colvin changed all this in 1991 when he wrote an article in the Journal of the Georgian Group, *A Roman Mausoleum in Gloucestershire: the Guise monument at Elmore*. He became interested in the mausoleum just as members of the Georgian Group expressed concern about its ongoing decay. This led to the mausoleum being spot-listed in 1991 at Grade II. The description, drawing on Colvin's article reads:

'Mausoleum. 1733 for Sir John Guise. Limestone ashlar. Square Plan. Neo-classical style. Baseless Roman Doric column attached to piers which supported 4 semi-circular arches beneath entablature and pyramid top. In his will of 1732 Sir John Guise chose a Roman prototype illustrated in Roland Freart's *Parallèle de l'architecture*

From the Chairman

The principal activity of late has been the improvement of the web-site.

All of the super work Teresa and David Sladen did in getting the original gazetteer up and running has now been greatly augmented by its modernisation and imminent re-launching in an expanded and more easily searchable form. Carrie Cocke and Hannah Parham have led on behalf of the trustees, and the results are impressive. Our stalwart volunteer, John Beattie, has added considerably to the contents too.

So much more information is now available, through this and other web sources such as English Heritage's National Heritage

List for England. Discoveries still remain to be made, however, so do let us know of graveyard highlights you encounter: Mausolus will be happy to host the most interesting.

Other activities worth noting are the on-going HLF application for the Hope Mausoleum at the Deepdene, and initial discussions about the Guise Mausoleum at Elmore.

Speaking of the latter, this raises the interesting issue of when collapse goes just a bit too far. Members of the MMT will be no strangers to the concept of 'pleasing decay' (attributed to John Piper, writing in 1948), but the issue of reinstatement is surely worth pursuing sometimes. Just occasionally, resurrection can take place before the Last Trump sounds.

Gloucestershire

antique avec la modern published in 1650. The mausoleum is of great importance as the first known example since Antiquity of the use of the baseless Roman Doric column, a fundamental component of the neo-classical style'.

The Guise Monument is therefore of huge interest as the 'earliest building in Western Europe in which the baseless Doric order is at present known to have been used'. It is one of a number of funerary structures dating from the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries that can be described as neo-classical, pre-dating the supposed start of the neo-classical era in the later eighteenth century. Colvin cited the will of Sir John Guise: he wanted to be interred 'in a monument there to be erected in the memory of me and my family according to a draught called Virgills Tomb in a Booke called the Parallel of Architecture'. An official Faculty, dated October 1733, authorised work already in train at Elmore. So we know when the mausoleum was built, and its stylistic provenance, but there is no record of the stonemason who erected the structure or whether or not an architect was involved in its design.

After the Trust's success in working with Mole Valley Council on Thomas Hope's Mausoleum at Deepdene (we have raised over £75,000 for its repair), the trustees decided was time to look at our own ruined mausoleum. The Trust has commissioned a conservation architect to carry out a survey of both the standing structure and the loose stones scattered in the undergrowth in advance of proposing options for restoration of the structure. In early 2011 Andrew Townsend Architects and local stone mason Alan Hawkins located all the extant pieces of stonework, excavated them and laid them out on pallets so they could be measured. It was opportune that at the time the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' scholars were

working with Andrew Townsend and joined in this process. Over several weeks in March and April 2011 the work continued, and the result was better than we had expected. The Trustees gathered at Elmore in November 2011 to survey the ruins, which are fenced off with chestnut pale.

The clearance of the undergrowth and recovery of the stone has revealed that a surprisingly large amount of the stonework of the arches, walls and entablature survives. Nearly all the smaller stones used to make up the pyramidal roof have disappeared, presumably because they were more portable and have been since used in the churchyard and elsewhere, but much can be salvaged of the remaining structure.

Since we acquired the Guise mausoleum, one of our members, Sinclair Johnston has been keeping a eye on it when he passes through Gloucester; and comparing his records with Andrew Townsend's report we were reassured that there has not been noticeable decay of the ruins, save for the stone slabs of the platform they sit on above the vaults, which now have some open joints. The whole structure is heavily shaded by large yew trees. These protected the ruins in the last century but need serious pruning if the structure is to be rebuilt and fully appreciated.

Further investigation work is required before we can take a final decision on what we should do with the structure, but the options vary from conserving the ruins as they are with the addition of an interpretation board, to considering various stages of reconstruction. 'Restoration' is not normally an idea that is approved of in building conservation, given the bad record it had in the hands of our Victorian forebears, where 'conjecture' featured large and architects often found that they could 'improve' on the original designs. Not, of course, that

this does not happen to this day. But whatever William Morris might have said, this is a case where restoration is perhaps acceptable because it is so difficult to enjoy the structure at all in its present condition; this is in no way a picturesque ruin, but rather an unintelligible array of stones.

The amounts of stonework remaining on the ground would allow a re-erection up to entablature level using mostly original stones. This would be like assembling a large three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle, but the SPAB scholars showed it was feasible. We can be certain about the details, and so avoid creating something that never existed. Colvin points out that the 1733 faculty gives the dimension of the structure as 18ftsq wide and 35ft high, and as the ruins fit the former dimension, so there is no reason to doubt these are accurate. Since the proportions of the remains correspond to Freart's engraving, there is no reason not to use this as the template either, as the original mason probably did in the eighteenth century. The only question is the degree of steepness of the pyramid.

The pyramid poses one of the major problems for an attempted reconstruction because its weight undoubtedly led to the collapse of the structure. We do not know how it was constructed or the dimensions of the stones that made up its narrow stone courses, or whether it was vaulted inside or hidden by a flat ceiling. We get into the realms of conjecture at this point.

The four-sided pyramid fitted inside the entablature of the structure, but the details of its construction are elusive. The tops of the four walls may have been tied together by timber wallplates joined at their ends and possibly by ties, but no evidence of this survives. All that remains are metal ties that were used to link the stones of the entablature. The bottoms of the faces

of the pyramid would have exerted a strong outward thrust on the tops of the walls behind the entablature. Rainwater running down the faces of the pyramid would have gathered at the bottom behind the entablature. Unless there was a lead-lined gutter all the way round with a spout at some point appearing over or through the entablature then the rainwater would have soaked the upper structure of the walls causing timber to rot, metal ties to rust or soaked stonework to freeze and explode. Whether the gutter was installed or not, after 180 years the upper walls lost the strength to resist the outward thrust and the structure collapsed in the dramatic crash in 1915.

If the Trust were to restore the pyramid, materials other than stone are well worth considering. Elsewhere in Britain, missing stonework that was too heavy for its support structure has been replaced in glass fibre or

other lightweight materials: examples include the minarets and domes at Brighton Pavilion and the top of the spire of St Vincent's Church in Westminster.

There is some way to go before the Trust is in a position to raise funds and apply for grants to fund the mausoleum's restoration. This will be by far the biggest undertaking of our small charity. Another issue for us is that restoration of a historic building is no longer considered an end in itself; in order to win public funding projects must generate benefit for people too. In Gloucestershire, we would like to explore how we might work with local people. Given the majority of funds would be spent on stone masonry, our offer to the local community could be the training of young people in stone masonry and conservation.

We are also exploring how we can work closely with the Parochial Church

Council of St John the Baptist Elmore. Our mausoleum is only the most recent spot-listing in a churchyard which boasts a magnificent twenty-four listed headstones and chest tombs and other funerary structures. This is one of the best churchyards in the Severn Vale and the Cotswolds. The PCC has carried out a survey of the listed items they have and has undertaken conservation work on some of these listed structures. If we are to undertake restoration of the mausoleum, this should be as part of a conservation plan for the whole churchyard.

This project will take further years to develop; in 2012 we envisage carrying out some more exploratory work on the ruins, particularly to explore the vaults and the foundations to the ruins, as well as further work on piecing together the remarkable stone puzzle.

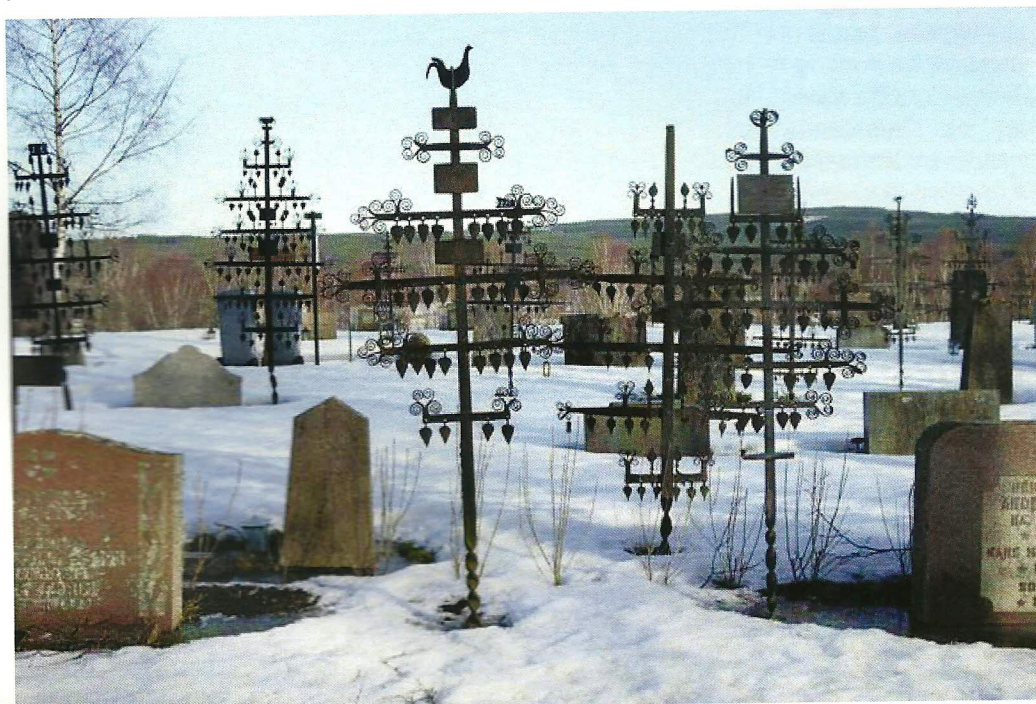
Postcard from Ekshärad Cemetery, Sweden

David Heath

This churchyard is remarkable both for the number of surviving historic wrought iron crosses, and for the continuation of the tradition up to the present day. As always, however, history isn't quite as simple as that. My understanding is that such crosses were more widespread, but most have

since disappeared. Partly this was because Swedish burial plots are not held indefinitely, and so crosses got cleared away from time to time; the crosses probably became regarded as old fashioned too. This church had a great heap of them set aside – they could hardly be used for paving or

boundary walls. When there was a major restoration of the church itself in 1927, a deliberate campaign of re-erection took place (this probably explains why the dates of the burials are all mixed up). Hey presto, the tradition started up again!



Events

War Cemeteries of North-East Italy, Friday 14 to Sunday 16 September, with the C20 Society

In recent years, over three events, Gavin Stamp has taken members of the C20 Society to the war cemeteries and memorials on the Western Front, based around the Somme, Ypres and Reims. There are less well-known but no less remarkable memorials and cemeteries along other fronts of the Great War, notably in north-east Italy. These present a greater challenge logistically for a tour, but a fourth event will take place in September 2012, led Nicholas Long and Andrew Boddington, assisted by Gavin Stamp.

The memorials and cemeteries, often in remote mountainous locations, were the result of huge Italian casualties fighting the Austro-Hungarians, and are vast and impressive structures, usually in an abstracted Classical manner typical of Italian architecture of their time.

We are planning to visit the following sites, though not in this sequence: Italian ossuaries: Monte Grappa, Fagare, Oslavia, Redipuglia, Montello, and Asiago; French memorial: Pederobba; Italian/Austro-Hungarian cemetery: Magnaboschi; German ossuary: Quero; CWGC cemeteries: at Magnaboschi and Granezza; and Italian votive temple: Cargnacco.

The tour will run over two and a half days, based for 3 nights in Treviso, starting at 08.30 on Friday 14th in Treviso (at a point to be advised, near the recommended hotels), and ending at 15.00 on Sunday 16th at Venice Marco Polo airport (likely to be the most popular airport), with members booking their travel and accommodation in Treviso. We advise your arrival in Treviso by the end of Thursday 13th, for the early start on Friday. We will arrange an optional group meal at a local trattoria for the Friday evening.

Unlike much of the Western Front, the sites are not close to each other, the itinerary will have long distances with tight timings, owing to the slower roads once we leave the autostradi and climb into the mountains,

so we may need 08.00 starts after Friday. There is no 'climbing' (as in hill-walking), but there are several locations with substantial flights of entry steps and, once within, there are staircases, particularly for views. Average fitness is therefore required.

Treviso is served by the best choice of flights through Venice Marco Polo (with a bus/train connection to Treviso), arriving from various UK airports, by easyJet, BA, Monarch and Thomson, and there are alternative regional airports, for example at Treviso served by Ryanair. The ability to buy one-way tickets gives options to fly in and out from different airports or with different airlines, especially as some members have expressed an intention to add days for their own travel, to get value from the travel cost, either to Venice (for the Biennale, curated by Chipperfield), Vicenza (for Palladio), Verona, Padua,

Trieste or Udine. If there is a need on the Sunday, the coach can continue to drop at Venice Mestre train station, to enable onward train connections.

We recommend the Carlton and Continental hotels in Treviso, particularly for location for both the station and the likely coach meeting point, though there are several other local alternatives, albeit less central, all bookable at www.hotelscombined.com, or your preferred hotels website.

Cost (excluding your own travel, accommodation, and meals) will include the coach throughout, tour notes and gratuities: final cost will be £200, but a deposit now of £150, and the balance will be advised. To book, or for further details, please email andrewboddington@btinternet.com.



The Nervesa Military Memorial at Montello in the Veneto by architect Felice Nori, which opened in 1935 and commemorates 9,325 Italian dead, 6,099 of whose names are unknown

Events

Huzzah for Nelson!

The Kymin Rocks and Beaulieu Grove overlooking Monmouth are notable for views over ten Counties 'equal in point of richness and picturesque beauty, to any inland view in the whole range of the kingdom'. In 1794 the foundations were laid for a banqueting house, now known as the Round House, erected there by public subscription encouraged by local landowners including the Duke of Beaufort.

Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile on the 1st August 1798 had an electrifying effect on the British, who were dispirited by the threat of invasion, the French Revolution, economic distress and civil unrest. The mood was captured in a letter from, Hon. Mrs Edward Boscawen to Hester Pitt, Lady Chatham on 5 October 1798: *I have waited and waited at length I am satisfy'd indeed: delighted, triumphant! Last Night I had a great N in brilliant Lamps adorning the Front of my Mansion and All our royal Village was illuminated. My Walks have been*

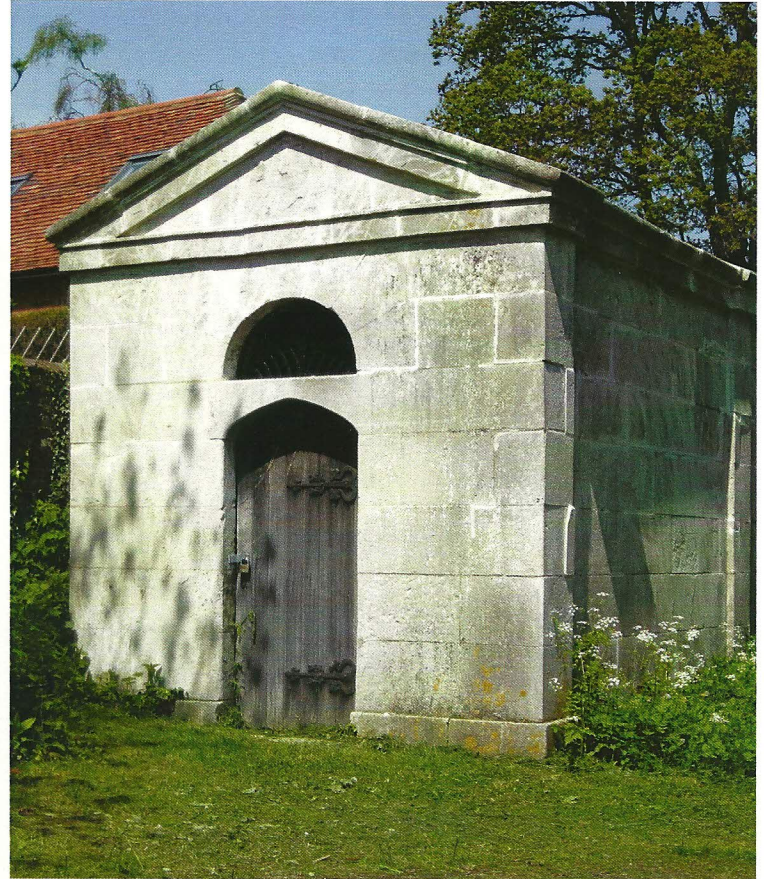
render'd pleasant by the continual Sound of Bells ringing All around, the Fire of Cannon without ceasing... God be prais'd that Thus our success extends, and that the Fear of Us, and the Dread of Us is thus impress'd on those Monsters the french who have overturn'd the World, and extended Slavery and Misery to the remotest Parts of It. Even in Monmouthshire, far, far away from the sea, there was a feeling of general relief and gratitude for the exploits of the Navy. A fine monument to Naval success was built next to the Round House in 1800, the first of its kind.

This monument has been restored by the National Trust, which owns the site and has chosen the anniversary of the Battle to rededicate it. Bring a picnic on Wednesday 1st August 2012, 1.00pm to 3.00pm (or thereabouts). This is a public event but a special invitation to members of the Mausolea & Monuments Trust has been made by the Picturesque Society. If you would

like to come, please confirm your attendance by e-mail to m.wood@placemaker.co.uk or in writing to Min Wood, The Archway, Fonthill Bishop, Salisbury. SP3 5SE. Members of each Society are invited to gather at the south-west corner of the Bowling Green.

Directions: The Kymin (Postcode NP25 3SF) is on the east side of the River Wye high above Monmouth. Coming from Chepstow on the A 466 turn right at the mini-roundabout by the Lidl store, (before you come to the Monmouth Bridge) onto the A 4136, Staunton Road. A little way up the hill you will find a NT sign to the right to the Kymin. This is a sharp right turn. The Kymin is reached by a single track road which also serves a number of private houses. Visitors are advised to share cars where possible and to be considerate to householders also using the road.





The elegant Lowndes Mausoleum, built in smooth ashlar with relatively few mouldings, before and after restoration.

CHESHAM MAUSOLEUM RESTORED

Bill Richards

The Lowndes Mausoleum is not one of Chesham's best known historical buildings, but its occupants had a great bearing on the Buckinghamshire town. Chesham's main park is called Lowndes Park in honour of the family who donated it to the townspeople in 1953. The family reputation is not entirely based around philanthropy, however. There is a story that one of the Lowndeses won a neighbouring manor house in a card game, and then promptly had it demolished so his was the only big house in town.

The Mausoleum was built by Charles Lowndes, the son of William Lowndes (1652-1724), known in his time as 'Ways and Means' Lowndes after the committee he chaired, which proposed tax changes to government. Charles was one of the seven sons (there were also seven daughters) born to William's fourth wife, Rebecca. Charles followed

his father as Secretary to the Treasury and as master of The Bury, one of the finest houses in the county. He built the mausoleum in 1740. Correspondence held in the Buckinghamshire Record Office suggests that the mausoleum may have been extended in 1857 by a later descendant of the family, another William Lowndes.

In 2010, following removal of the ivy from roof, the building was found to be very much in need of renovation and required major repairs to make safe.

Even though the building is located in the lee of St Mary's Church, the town's beautiful Grade I-listed parish church, the responsibility for maintenance for all graves, including this mausoleum, lies with Chesham Town Council.

As a listed building was involved, the Council firstly needed to ensure

that any repairs were undertaken by specialist builders, in accordance with listed building standards.

With the help and guidance of local surveyors, a special building company, Corinthian Stone, was commissioned to undertake major repairs to the roof and walls at a cost of £7,700. The works required facility consent from the Diocese of Oxford which was duly granted and repairs commenced in early 2012. The finances were forthcoming, not just from the Council but also from generous contributions from St Mary's District Church Council and the Bucks Historical Buildings Trust.

The restoration was completed in February 2012 and St Mary's Church will be considering the opportunities to open this historically important building to the public in the future.

Visit to Northern Ireland Friday 16 – Sunday 18 September 2011

Patricia Thomas

The official visit to mausolea in Belfast and its environs in Counties Down and Antrim commenced at 9am on Saturday 17 September from the steps of the Malmaison Hotel, Victoria Street (a fine example of Victorian mercantile architecture [formerly Lytle & McCausland's Seed-Warehouses (1866-7), designed by William Hastings (1814-92) and built by Fitzpatrick Brothers, with vigorous sculptures representing Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe, and America by Michael Fitzpatrick, junior partner in the building-firm], converted into a luxury hotel located in Belfast city-centre just opposite the Anglican parish-church of St George). This mercantile connection was found again and again throughout the visit, as most of the families who built the mausolea we visited had made their fortunes through trade and commerce, a tradition that continues today with the new Hastings Mausoleum in Downpatrick, viewed on Saturday. The party of MMT members led by Professor James Stevens Curl had met for a convivial dinner in the *Hill Street Brasserie* the previous evening, when the Professor briefed us and impressed upon us the need to keep to time as he had arranged a fascinating and very full itinerary, so any dawdling would have knocked the schedule hopelessly out.

The first stop (though *en route* we were entertained to a continuous flow of detailed architectural information about the several grand Victorian buildings we passed in our coach [admirably steered by an agreeable lady-driver]) was the graveyard of the Church of Ireland (Anglican) parish-church (1737—designed by Richard Castle or Cassel [c.1690-1751]) at Knockbreda, now in the outskirts of Belfast, where the party was met by Primrose Wilson, Chairman of The Follies Trust, her husband, Edward, and the Trust's Chartered Building Surveyor, Chris McCollum (who specialises in Historic Building Conservation). They showed us the three extraordinary Georgian monuments: those of Greg

(1796), Rainey (1771), and Waddell-Cunningham-Douglas (1797) and explained how their restoration had been carried out and the structural problems resolved. The magnificence and decorative richness of these 18th-century funerary monuments can only be fully appreciated by seeing them *in situ*, for the setting (a wonderful site high above the Lagan Valley in which Belfast lies) is truly splendid. Despite the rain (and it was only

one of two occasions throughout the weekend, amazingly, when it did fall with any intensity), the party was able to recognise the application and dedication that has achieved such a high standard of restoration. The history and processes have been described in *Knockbreda: Its Monuments & People*, edited by Lydia Wilson, published in Belfast by The Follies Trust (2008).



The restored Waddell-Cunningham-Douglas Mausoleum of 1797, in the graveyard of the parish church of Knockbreda © James Stevens Curl



*The Corry Mausoleum of c.1860 at Movilla graveyard.
© James Stevens Curl*

The next stop was the graveyard of the parish-church (again Church of Ireland) of St Elizabeth in Dundonald to view the enormous Cleland mausoleum, built of granite in 1842 by Eliza Cleland to the memory of her husband, Samuel, of Storm Mount (the house that was later enlarged to become Stormont Castle): in the Greek Revival style, the robust Doric mausoleum has pediments on each face, and is surmounted by four urns on pedestals at each corner, with, rising up from the middle of the blocky base, an attenuated Ionic cupola. The

entire composition is loosely based on that of the Mausoleum of the Julii (c.30-20BC) at Saint-Rémy (Glanum) in what was Narbonnese Gaul (now Provence), a structure that was also the model for the Mausoleum at Downhill, County Londonderry, the estate of Frederick Augustus Hervey (1730-1803—Bishop of Derry from 1768 and 4th Earl of Bristol from 1779): the Downhill Mausoleum is actually a Cenotaph, and was erected (c.1779-83—to designs by Michael Shanahan) by the Bishop in memory of his brother, George William Hervey

(1721-75—Lord Lieutenant of Ireland [1766-7]).

We then went on to the Movilla graveyard (near the mediæval ruined Abbey) high above Newtownards to view the Corry Mausoleum (c.1860), an exquisite miniature Greek Doric tetrastyle temple, with six columns on each of the long sides, but quite open, with no enclosing walls, just the Doric peristyle: it was designed by John Corry (fl.1850-70), who was also responsible for a very distinguished Presbyterian church in Belfast (1859-62—now the Elmwood Concert-Hall), and juggled his interest in architecture with running the family shipping-fleet, largely from London. Adjacent to the ruins we saw the Gothic Revival Parr Mausoleum built of basalt with red sandstone dressings, dating from the late-19th century. Also in this graveyard is a barrel-vaulted half-buried mausoleum, with an inscribed ledger-stone resting on top: this was early-19th-century in date, and was erected by the McFadden family. We admired many examples of very robust lettering on tombstones, and saw that several were painted to protect the stone, something that was once very common in England too, but the custom seems to have survived in parts of Ulster.

The morning ended with a visit to the Andrews Mausoleum in Comber, a large Neo-Classical pile built c.1867. The Andrews family, once manufacturers of linen, still live near by at Ardara, and Thomas Andrews (1873-1912) was the naval architect responsible for the huge White Star liners, *Olympic*, *Britannic*, and the ill-fated *Titanic*. An excellent luncheon followed at *Balloo House*, where the comfortable interior rang with animated discussion on the mausolea and graveyards we had visited, interspersed with well-earned food and drink.

However, an afternoon of ease was not permitted by our ferociously energetic guide, and we were soon back on the coach to visit the graveyard beautifully sited near the ruined Cistercian Abbey of Inch, beside the River Quoile. There, we had our first sight of a curious Ulster type of mausoleum, a stone-built semicircular vaulted structure sealed at each end,



The graveyard at Inch, with the Perceval-Maxwells Mausoleum on the right.
© James Stevens Curl

rather like a petrified Nissen-Hut, but the burying-ground is dominated by the impressive and enormous Neo-Classical temple-fronted façade of the Perceval-Maxwells of Finnebrogue, which possesses some fine surviving ironwork, and has a fragment of mediæval tracery from the Abbey in the tympanum of its pediment.

We then moved on to Downpatrick, the county town of Down, to see the Cathedral of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity of the Downe, with its fabulous Georgian Gothick stalls, cathedra, and box-pews. The building has some mediæval work, but the overwhelming impression is of a late-Georgian Gothick church (albeit a large one), with a huge west tower completed 1829-38 to designs by William Farrell (d.1851). In the graveyard to the west of the Cathedral stands the brand-new Hastings Mausoleum in a vaguely Gothick style, all in polished granite. We saw the reputed burial-place of St Patrick, which our leader very much doubted was anything of the kind (as Relics were far too valuable to the Church to be interred beneath a rock), and viewed some interesting old headstones near by.

Also in Downpatrick, we were shown the graveyard of Christ Church, the parish-church of the area, where

stand three mausolea of interest, one of which was Gothick Revival. We were then briskly whisked to Stream Street Non-Subscribing Presbyterian churchyard, also in Downpatrick, a lovely 18th-century 'meeting-house' with a pronounced domestic appearance: inside, we could see the original simple furnishings, including pews and gallery. But the highlights of the burying-ground were the extraordinary mausolea, including several of the 'Nissen-Hut' type, and two with pyramidal tops on square bases, but with the sides of the pyramids curved in concave form, a type developed, as the Professor observed, from the concave-sided cone of the so-called 'Tomb of Absalom' in the Kedron Valley near Jerusalem (perhaps of the 1st century AD) or the concave-sided pyramid that caps the Monument of the Secundinii near Trier in Germany (probably 3rd century AD). He reminded us that he had published an architectural *capriccio* showing the 'Tomb of Absalom' in his *A Celebration of Death* (London: Constable, 1980), p.63, and suggested that such views of Biblical sites would have influenced the design of mausolea such as those in Stream Street burying-ground.

From Downpatrick we proceeded to Clough, where, in the graveyard of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

(formerly Unitarian) church we saw the stupendous Murland Mausoleum (c.1860), with its massively vermiculated rusticated walls, huge 'Order' of consoles instead of pilasters or columns, pediments at each end, stone roof, and lugubriously shrouded urns. The Murland vault, as the Professor remarked, belonged more to Père-Lachaise or to an American cemetery (such as Greenwood in Brooklyn) than to Ulster, especially given the plain preaching-boxes that were usual for Nonconformist 'meeting-houses': the Mausoleum is remarkably redolent of the 'fat atmosphere' of opulent 19th-century funerals, such a part of the Victorian Celebration of Death. Built partly underground, with a lavish *pompe-funèbre* superstructure of almost incredible richness, it must be one of the most lavish of mid-19th-century mausolea anywhere in these islands.

The tour ended with a moving visit to the primitive partly-buried mausolea and three ancient ruined tiny churches in the Roman Catholic graveyard at Loughinisland, Kinelearty, situated in an idyllic location overlooking a lake. The sun shone brightly, and in such a peaceful place it was difficult to comprehend that the pub in village of Loughinisland had been the scene of a massacre in 1994 during the Troubles.

An extremely active day ended with supper at the famous Belfast restaurant *Nick's Warehouse*, where we were delighted to be joined by the Professor's wife, Professor Dorota Iwaniec.

There was a similar 9am start on Sunday, with a visit to the Clifton Old Burying-Ground (founded 1797) which was opened specially for us. This walled cemetery belongs to the same generation of out-of-town cemeteries as those of St Marx, Vienna, and the Kreuzberg cemeteries, Berlin, so is of enormous historical significance as a cemetery unattached to any Church. We were able to view the Gothic Revival Dunville Mausoleum built c.1865, and the Neo-Classical Mausoleum of James Luke dating from c.1810 built by W. Graham of Belfast. The Luke Mausoleum is a house-tomb, clearly derived from French types, as found in plenty in Père-Lachaise, and is surmounted by a stumpy obelisk, the whole in dressed brown sandstone. We saw the grave of Mary Ann McCracken (1770-1866), the radical philanthropist, in which her brother, the United Irishman, Henry Joy McCracken (born 1767 and executed 1798 for his part in the Rebellion known in Ireland as 'The Ninety-Eight'), was probably also interred, which explained the Republican wreaths placed on the grave. Nearby was the mural tablet over the burial-place of William Drennan (1754-1820 - physician, poet, and political reformer, and United Irishman, who coined the phrase 'The Emerald Isle' [of which the Professor wryly observed that it could never be anything else at it rains all the time, as it did when we were in the cemetery]). Clifton Old is a potent reminder of how radical Belfast was at the end of the 18th century, when the French Revolution was celebrated, and it should be remembered that most

of the leaders of radical thought at that time were actually Presbyterians, not Roman Catholics, though from the 19th century Irish Nationalism tended to be mostly associated with Roman Catholicism, a fact not unconnected with the degeneration of the '98 into sectarian killings, a tragically familiar fact of Irish history. Before we left the cemetery we saw the mural tablet commemorating the Professor of Moral Philosophy at Belfast's



The mausoleum to George William Hervey at Downhill, County Londonderry. Built c.1779-83 to designs by Michael Shanahan.

© James Stevens Curl

Academical Institution, John Young, MA, LLD (1755-1829—a graduate of the University of Glasgow): it simply reads:

YOUNG!
moulders here
1829

as radical and eloquent a statement of his philosophical free-thinking position as can be seen anywhere, and sums up that sadly short-lived Enlightenment of late-18th and early-19th-century Belfast that was closely associated with Freemasonry [see James Stevens Curl (2011): *Freemasonry & the Enlightenment:*

Architecture, Symbols, & Influences (London: Historical Publications Ltd.)] and with the French *philosophes* and with the Scottish Enlightenment connected with people such as David Hume (1711-76), Dugald Stewart (1753-1828), and other luminaries. Regarding Clifton Old, the Professor recommended the excellent volume by the late R.W.M. Strain: *Belfast and its Charitable Society: A Story of Urban Social Development* (London: Oxford University Press, 1961).

The next stop was Templepatrick, County Antrim, where we saw the Templetown Mausoleum, erected by Sarah Upton 'to perpetuate the memory of her husband', the Rt. Hon. Arthur Upton (1715-68). Now in the care of the National Trust (since 1965), it was based on a design by Robert Adam (1728-92) in the Neo-Classical style, but built in somewhat simplified form in 1789, and is at once severe and yet richly detailed with a refinement that is undeniable.

The morning continued with a visit to the Presbyterian burying-ground set on a tiny hill at Kilbride, also in County Antrim, overlooking the enchanting Valley of the Six Mile Water, where the exotic and delightful Stephenson Mausoleum, built in 1837, is located. It commemorates four Ulster

medical men and other members of the Stephenson family, but its Indianesque style alludes to the fact that the Stephensons, like the Raineyes in Knockbreda, were connected with the Madras Presidency. The fine ashlar-work at the top of the structure is suffering greatly from decay due to lack of maintenance, and some of the delicate details have fallen, not unconnected with vegetation that has run riot in the past. The building needs immediate attention to rescue it from ruin. Interestingly, some idea of how even very small towns in Ulster once had many crafts and minor industries could be gained from the fact that the

iron door of the Mausoleum was made in Doagh, not far away from Kilbride.

The entire tour, and indeed the visit to Northern Ireland, ended with a visit to the top of Knockagh Hill where stands the obelisk commemorating the dead of County Antrim in the two World Wars: designed by the scholarly architect, Henry Seaver (1860-1941), it is a scaled-down version of the gigantic Wellington Testimonial in Phoenix Park, Dublin (erected in 1817 to designs by [Sir—he was knighted in 1832] Robert Smirke [1780-1867]),

and was only completed in the 1930s. We were blessed with a wonderful, clear morning (after the dark, rainy start in Clifton Old earlier on), and the views from the Knockagh were magical, taking in Belfast Lough, the coastline of North Down, the Copeland Islands, the Isle of Man, and the coast of Galloway.

As the coach returned to Belfast, Carrie Cocke proposed a vote of thanks to Pat Thomas for organising the details of transport and the whole trip, and to Professor Curl for planning

the tour with meticulous attention to timing and places of interest.

The action-packed visit was hugely informative and enjoyable and our thanks are owed to Professor Curl for not only feeding our aesthetic and historic senses, but also ensuring that we were introduced to some of the best food and drink in Northern Ireland. Our thanks go also to Edward and Primrose Wilson and to Chris McCollum for the input from The Follies Trust.



The Murland Mausoleum of c.1860, at Clough © James Stevens Curl

New Trustees appointed at the Annual General Meeting 2012

The Secretary writes: When Jill Allibone was setting up a committee to launch the Mausolea & Monuments Trust in the 1990s she famously wrote to a colleague 'the trustees [of the MMT] will comprise some older people (like myself), some middle aged, and some young in order to ensure and secure its future'.

One of the 'young' ones is now our chairman, Roger Bowdler, and another, Tim Knox, is now one of our Patrons. At the AGM on 14th June three new trustees were elected, all in the 'young' category: Dr Jerzy Kierkuc-Bielinski, Exhibitions Curator at Sir John Soane's Museum; Tim Ellis, architect and custodian of our Wynne

Ellis & Nash mausoleums in Kent; and Alexander Bagnall, an officer of Mole Valley District Council, who is spearheading the Hope Mausoleum restoration project. We welcome them and look forward to the benefit of their combined expertise.