

# NEWBRIDGE HOUSE

## STUDY DAY


NEWBRIDGE HOUSE, DONABATE, CO. DUBLIN • TUESDAY 8TH NOV 2016  
IGS MEMBERS €80 / NON-MEMBERS €90 (INCL. TEA/COFFEE & LUNCH)



Irish  
Georgian  
Society

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



 **NEWBRIDGE**  
HOUSE AND FARM

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The Irish Georgian Society and Fingal County Council in collaboration with the Cobbe family, are partnering to deliver a study day, which will examine the history and conservation of Newbridge House's architecture, designed landscape, decorative interiors and collection.

*The Cobbe Cabinet of Curiosities: an Anglo Irish Country House Museum* edited by Arthur MacGregor and published by Yale University Press in 2015 (RRP: €100) is available for the special offer price of €65 to those who book for the Newbridge Study Day. Please be advised those wishing to avail of this special offer need to pay at time of purchase of study day ticket. Book price excludes postage and packaging, and must be collected on the morning of the study day at registration. (This offer is only available to those booking for the Study Day before Tuesday 1st November 2016.)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Newbridge Study Day is an action of the Irish Georgian Society's Conservation Education Programme. This Study Day has been convened by William Laffan, IGS Board Member, and Emmeline Henderson, IGS Assistant Director and Conservation Manager. The Newbridge Study Day and the IGS's Conservation Education Programme is supported by the Apollo Foundation; Ecclesiastical Insurance; Fingal County Council; Merrion Property Group and Heather and John Picerne.



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## GETTING TO NEWBRIDGE HOUSE

Newbridge House is a fifteen minute walk from Donabate village. Donabate is twelve miles north of Dublin City Centre.

By Car: Turn off at Junction 4 (M1/N1) onto the R126 signposted Donabate.

By Bus: Bus 33B from Eden Quay in Dublin city centre to Donabate village.

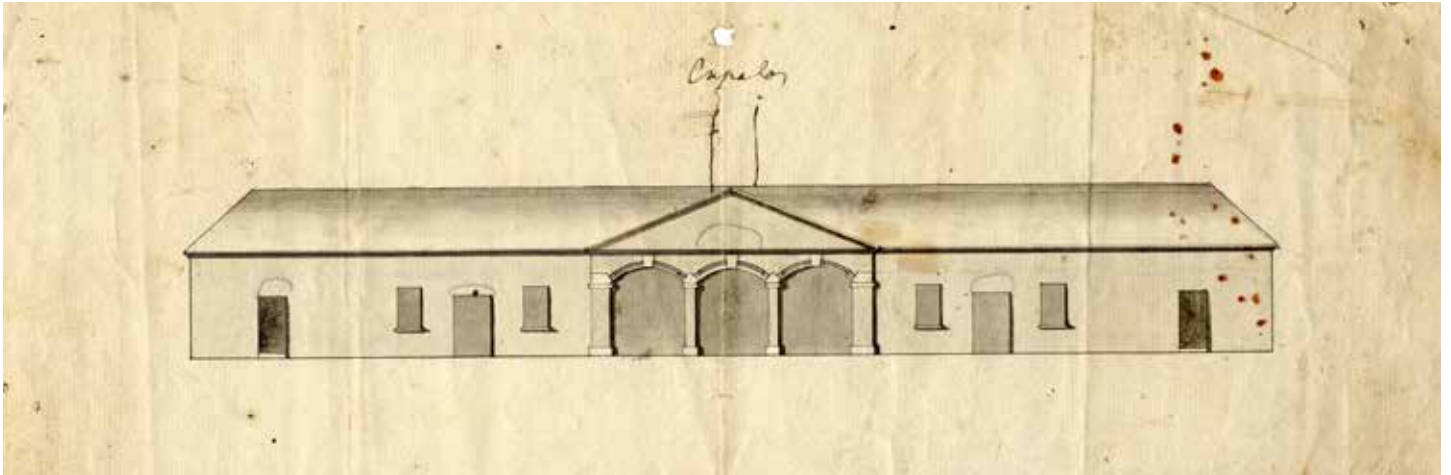
By Train: Northbound trains from Connolly or Pearse Street stations stopping at Donabate train station.



Cover: The south front of Newbridge House, Co. Dublin, by Janet Finlay Cobbe, née Grahame (1826-1884), c. 1860, watercolour on paper (17.5 x 31.75 cm), Cobbe Collection no. 205. Reproduced with the kind permission of Alec Cobbe. Above: Photographs of Newbridge House by Alexey Moskvín provided courtesy of Alec Cobbe.

# NEWBRIDGE HOUSE

PROGRAMME • TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016



*Drawing of North range attributed to G Semple (CC241) Cobbe Papers: Alec Cobbe Division.*

## WELCOME & REGISTRATION

9.00am Registration (Tea & Coffee)

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## SESSION 1: HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Chair: Dr David Fleming, Chair of Irish Georgian Foundation and Lecturer & Course Director, MA Local History, Department of History, University of Limerick

9.30am Charles Cobbe and other Edifying Bishops

*Dr Anthony Malcomson, retired Director of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland*

In 18th-century Ireland, particularly during the first 75 years of the century, the archbishops and bishops of the Church of Ireland enjoyed some of the highest landed incomes in the country. If they had architectural interests, a system of reimbursement of their outlay on episcopal palaces was in operation, on terms which became progressively more generous to the original builder. If, on the other hand, they were minded to devote their episcopal earnings to founding a dynasty and building a family mansion, they were in a strong financial position to achieve that objective. Either way, they are a class of patron which repays study and of which Archbishop Cobbe is a leading exemplar.

10.00am Newbridge House & the Architecture of James Gibbs

*Dr David Watkin, Professor Emeritus of History of Architecture, Department of History of Art, University of Cambridge*  
Professor Watkin's talk will stress Gibbs' importance for his unusual brilliance in incorporating Palladian and Italian Baroque themes in his work, following his early training in Rome. He praised architects such as Borromini and also the Jesuits as architectural patrons, with their Catholic origin they were anathema to Colin Campbell in *Vitruvius Britannicus* (1715). Gibbs was thus the only major 18th-century architect to be excluded from this important work. Trained as a priest for a time in Rome, he remained a Catholic at heart, though he had to conceal this from his patron at Newbridge, the Archbishop of Dublin. Nonetheless he left a fund in his will to pay for Requiem Masses to be said for him after his death. The talk will include an account of Gibbs' little known manuscript memoir in Sir John Soane's Museum.

10.30am William Cobbe and the Agapemone

*Cathal Dowd Smith, Cobbe Family Archivist*

William Cobbe (1816-1911), the third son of Charles and Frances Cobbe, grew up in Newbridge, and was employed on the construction of the Bristol-Exeter Railway line before becoming involved in the Princite Evangelical Movement. Those followers of the radical preacher Henry J. Prince settled as the Agapemone or 'The Abode of Love' in rural Somerset, attracting considerable national attention, from Prince's radical sermons, to their involvement in a Lunacy trial, to their love of hockey. What were William's reasons for joining this sect and alienating himself from his family? What was William Cobbe's involvement in the unorthodox ongoings behind the Abode's walls?



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*Top: View of front facade of Newbridge House. Photograph : Alexey Moskvina. Bottom: Entrance to Drawing Room at Newbridge. Photograph: Alexey Moskvina. Photographs reproduced with the kind permission of Alec Cobbe.*

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TEA & COFFEE

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## SESSION 2: INTERIORS AND COLLECTIONS

Chair: William Laffan, IGS Board Member

11.30am Preserving the Taste of Thomas and Lady Betty Cobbe at Newbridge

*Alec Cobbe, Newbridge House*

The talk will illustrate Thomas and Lady Betty Cobbe's contribution to the architecture, furnishing and collections of Newbridge House and some of the processes of preserving them. Their activities included the ornamentation of the exterior architecture of Newbridge, the enlargement of the house with a wing employing joiners and stuccadores, commissioning furniture, collecting pictures, porcelain and silver, and commissioning musical instruments.

12.00pm India Pictures and Irish Flocks: global and local aspects of the wallpaper trade in Georgian Ireland

*David Skinner, wallpaper maker and historian*

Two historic wallpaper schemes at Newbridge form the basis of a discussion of the development of the wallpaper trade in Ireland between the 1760s and the 1820s. The impact of East India goods on the design of locally made products is examined, before turning to the career of Patrick Boylan – the leading paper-stainer of post-Union Dublin, and supplier of the magnificent crimson flock paper in the Saloon at Newbridge.

12.30pm Cabinet of Curiosities: the Cobbe Museum Project

*Dr Arthur MacGregor, former Curator, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford*

The origins of the Cobbe cabinet of curiosities at Newbridge can be traced to the mid-eighteenth century, although it continued to be modified and expanded over the next hundred years. Given the collection's lengthy genesis and its heterogeneous nature, the task of preparing a catalogue for publication presented many organisational problems. The solutions adopted and the format chosen for its presentation are discussed. Questions of the appropriateness of these solutions for application to other collections is assessed.

1.00pm The Newbridge Hobbema and some Observations on other Dutch and Flemish Works in the Cobbe Collection

*Dr Adriaan Waiboer, Curator of Northern European Art, National Gallery of Ireland*

Adriaan Waiboer will discuss the Meindert Hobbema's *Wooded Landscape*, today at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, but formerly part of the Cobbe Collection. In addition to its provenance and its place within the artist's oeuvre, Waiboer will talk about the painting's relationship with its 'companion piece', *Wooded Landscape: the Path on the Dyke*, now at the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, and analyse the relationship between these two works within the context of 'pendants' in Dutch seventeenth-century art. Waiboer will also briefly talk about some other Dutch and Flemish works in the Cobbe collection, among them Johannes Voorhout's *Lady in an Interior, with a Servant Washing her Foot* and Balthasar Beschey's *St Hilary and St Francis in a Cave*.

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LUNCH & TOUR OF NEWBRIDGE HOUSE (1.5 HOURS)

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Top: Drawing Room at Newbridge, c.1905. Bottom: Drawing Room at Newbridge. Photograph: Alexey Moskvina. Reproduced with the kind permission of Alec Cobbe.

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## SESSION 3: LANDSCAPE, CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

Chair: Donough Cahill, Executive Director, Irish Georgian Society

- 3.00pm **Newbridge and other Irish Demesnes of the Middle Size**  
*Dr Finola O'Kane Crimmins, Associate Professor in Architecture and Conservation, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin*  
Eighteenth-century landscape design sometimes scaled the demesne in proportion to the owner's overall land holding. This allowed visitors to read the owner's social and political importance from the scale of the demesne itself and the relative scale of its constituent parts- the demesne walls, rides, water features, walled gardens, parkland and farmland. Decisions as to scale affected the design of approach routes, vistas within the demesne, the parkland's depth of field and treebelts in particular. In other instances owners thought it more appropriate to lay out a modest demesne, despite the large scale of their estate. In 1776 Charles Frizell's survey of Newbridge Demesne assessed its area at one hundred and ninety-four Irish plantation acres (316 statute acres). The parkland, clumps and water features together with the carefully drawn ploughed fields and meadows suggest an Irish demesne of the middle size, where design ambition jostled with the demands of a working farm. Yet the Cobbe family's overall estate was substantial stretching across the counties of Carlow, Wicklow, Louth and both North and South County Dublin. This paper will examine the design of such classic Irish demesnes of middle size as Newbridge, Killadoon, Dunkettle and Kilkea. The existence of other family seats, the owner's residency or absenteeism and family fluctuations of fortune also affected each demesne's eventual form. It will also argue for the role of such demesnes of middle size in determining the significance of Irish demesne landscape and by extension its conservation.
- 3.30pm **Newbridge demesne: the history, conservation and management of a designed landscape**  
*Úna Ni Mhearain, Conservation Architect, Consarc Design Group Ltd*  
Newbridge Demesne is the only surviving intact 18th Century demesne in Dublin and one of a few remaining in the country. It has changed little over the course of its history. Its principal significance lies in the integrity of the estate, practically unaltered in over 230 years. Of particular significance is the comprehensive cartographic record of the site that survives. This record traces the development of the demesne, illustrating how little has changed in its landscape and design since its inception. The talk will focus on this record to illustrate this continuum.
- 4.00pm **Newbridge: Managing Historic Properties- The Local Authority Perspective**  
*Fionnuala May, County Architect, Fingal County Council*  
Fingal County Council own and manage eight historic properties. This property portfolio is one of the largest held by a local authority in the country. The properties are varied in type and size from disused mills to medieval castles to classic 18th century houses such as Newbridge. The talk will examine the management, funding and governing philosophy that guides Fingal County Council in its custodianship of these important properties and their collections. In 2016, Fingal County Council commissioned a conservation plan for Newbridge, which will inform on the on-going curatorship and conservation of the house and its designed landscape.
- 4.30pm **Questions & Answers**

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THANK YOU & CLOSE

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# NEWBRIDGE HOUSE

BIOGRAPHIES • TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

**Donough Cahill** is the Executive Director of the Irish Georgian Society, where he oversees its strategic and day-to-day operations and works with the Irish Georgian Foundation's Committee of Management, its sub-committees and working groups and with the Society's North America and UK based membership in promoting the appreciation and protection of Ireland's architectural heritage and allied arts. Most recently he is responsible for overseeing the restoration of the City Assembly House, which now serves as the Society headquarters and as a hub for promoting heritage and culture in the heart of the Georgian city.

**Alec Cobbe** was born in Dublin in 1945. He divides his time between Newbridge House, where he grew up, and Hatchlands Park in Surrey. He trained as a paintings conservator at the Tate Gallery, and now combines his conservation activities with the design of historic interiors and practices as an artist. He formed the Cobbe collection of Composers' Keyboard instruments. His design career archive was acquired by the Victoria and Albert Museum, and celebrated with a retrospective exhibition there in 2014, which afterwards travelled to Dublin Castle in 2015. His publications include *James Gibbs in Ireland, 2002* (co-authored with Terry Friedman), *Chopin's Swansong, the pianos of his last performances, 2010* and *300 Years of Composers' Instruments* (co-authored with Christopher Nobbs), 2014.

**Cathal Dowd Smith** is a student of the History of Art and Architecture and History at Trinity College Dublin. He has worked in Newbridge House for the past five years, most recently in the Cobbe family archives, an almost complete and uniquely surviving family archive in Ireland. His talk draws from this rich source.

**Dr David Fleming** is a lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Limerick and course director of its MA Local History. He is a historian of eighteenth-century Ireland. On completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Limerick, he was awarded, in 2006, a DPhil from the University of Oxford, where he had been a senior scholar at Hertford College and an Arts and Humanities Research Council postgraduate awardee. His research concentrates on the social and political development of eighteenth-century Ireland, and he has published on topics ranging from provincial politics, poverty, religious conversion, associational behaviour and prostitution. In addition to his academic career, he is treasurer of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, secretary of the Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society, a trustee of the Hunt Museum's Trust and chairman of the Irish Georgian Foundation.



Top left: Entrance hall of Newbridge House. Photograph by Alexey Moskvina. Photograph reproduced with the kind permission of Alec Cobbe. Bottom Left: Flock wallpaper by Patrick Boylan in the Drawing Room at Newbridge, ca. 1811-22. Photograph: Eugene Langan. Right: Cabinet XXIII with three tier stand. Photograph by John Hammond. Photograph reproduced with the kind permission of Alec Cobbe.



# NEW BRIDGE HOUSE

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**William Laffan** is a former editor of *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*, the Journal of the Irish Georgian Society, and member of the Society's board, took Greats at Oxford followed by an M.Phil from the Warburg Institute, London. He prepared the first editions of Hugh Douglas Hamilton's *The Cries of Dublin* (2003) and of Samuel Chearnley's *Miscellanea Structura Curiosa* (2005); was co-author of *Thomas Roberts, Landscape and Patronage in Eighteenth Century Ireland* (2009) and guest curator of the accompanying exhibition at the National Gallery of Ireland; and was co-author of *Russborough: A Great Irish House, its Families and Collections* (2014). He edited the catalogue for the exhibition *Ireland, Crossroads of Art and Design, 1690-1840* at the Art Institute of Chicago (2015) and is currently researching a monograph on Nathaniel Hone (1714-84) and preparing an exhibition on the nude in Irish art for the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork.

**Dr Arthur MacGregor** served as a curator for almost thirty years at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. His interests have focused principally on archaeology, anthro-zoology, and the history of collecting. He has served as Director of the Society of Antiquaries and is currently President of the Society for the History of Natural History. He is a Fellow of the Linnean Society and a founding-editor of the *Journal of the History of Collections*; he has also produced a number of multi-author volumes on related topics, from *The Origins of Museums* (1985) to *The Cobbe Cabinet of Curiosities* (2015). His own books include *Curiosity and Enlightenment* (2007) and *Animal Encounters* (2012).

**Dr Anthony Malcolmson** was educated at Campbell College, Belfast, and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and obtained a Ph.D. in History (QUB) in 1970. He worked on the staff of PRONI, 1967-98, the last ten years as director of the institution, and took early retirement in 1998 to give himself the opportunity to research and write in the field of Irish political and social history, c. 1750-1832. His specialism as an archivist is 'big house' archives, of which he has sorted and listed c. 75; he has worked on the section of the Cobbe archive located at Hatchlands Park, East Clandon, Surrey. He has published numerous books and calendars, of which the most relevant in the present context is *Archbishop Charles Agar: Churchmanship and Politics in Ireland, 1760-1810* (FCP, Dublin, 2002).

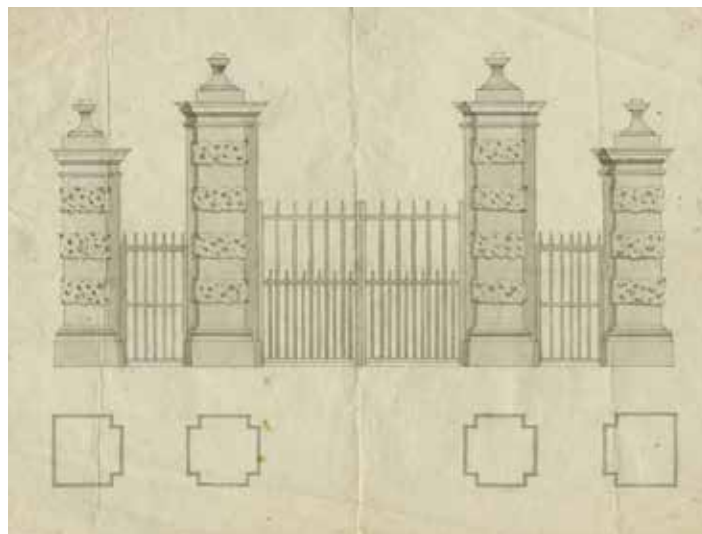
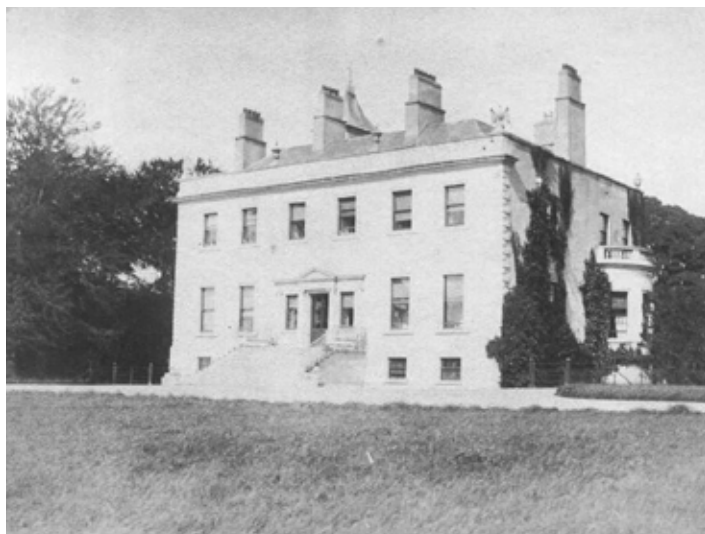
**Fionnuala May** Dip. Arch., B. Arch. Sc., MUBC, MRIAI trained as an architect in the Dublin Institute of Technology and graduated in 1988. She worked in private practice on mainstream and conservation projects before undertaking the Master of Urban and Building Conservation degree in University College Dublin in 1993. She was awarded the MUBC in 1994. She joined the public service as an Architect for Fingal County Council in 1994 and served as Architect on housing projects 1994-2000, Conservation Officer from 2000-2006 and Senior Architect with a brief of Public Buildings, Conservation and Planning until 2011. Currently, she holds the post of County Architect. She served on the Standing Committee on Architecture to the Heritage Council 2000-10. She is a member of ICOMOS, the Heritage Contractors Registration Board and the Historic Building Committee of the RIAI. She is a member of the RIAI Council for 2016. In 2016, she was appointed to the board of The Heritage Council.



Charles Cobbe, Bishop of Kildare (later Archbishop of Dublin); portrait by James Stewart, c. 1750, oil on canvas (126.5 x 100.5 cm), Cobbe Collection, no. 71. Photograph: Andy Johnson. Reproduced with the kind permission of Hugh Cobbe.

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Left: Newbridge House c. 1905. Right: Drawing of gates attributed to Semple after a design by James Gibbs, Cobbe Papers: Alec Cobbe Division.

**Úna Ní Mhearain** is a Conservation Architect and is an Associate Director of Consarc Conservation. Consarc Conservation specialises in the conservation, restoration and re-use of historic buildings. Consarc is an Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland Grade 1 Accredited Conservation practice. Una studied architecture at DIT Bolton Street, and she completed her Masters in Urban and Building Conservation at UCD. Una is an experienced designer of many award-winning projects such as Headfort House, a project which the Irish Georgian Society was a major funder of, Rockfield House, Ulster Bank, The O2. She has recently completed works on Ashford Castle and is currently working on Adare Manor & the former Parliament Building, Bank of Ireland College Green. Una is the project architect for the conservation of the Irish Georgian Society's new HQ, the City Assembly House, 58 South William Street. She is a committee member of the Buildings Limes Forum of Ireland and ICOMOS Ireland.

**Dr Finola O'Kane Crimmins** is Associate Professor of Architecture and Conservation in UCD's School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, where she directs the MUBC programme. Her books include *Landscape Design in Eighteenth-century Ireland: Mixing Foreign Trees with the Natives* (Cork, 2004), awarded an inaugural J.B. Jackson 2007 Book Prize by the American Landscape Foundation; William Ashford's *Mount Merrion; The Absent Point of View* (Tralee, 2012) and *Ireland and the Picturesque; Design, Landscape Painting and Tourism in Ireland 1700-1830* (Yale, 2013) which received both a J.B. Jackson 2016 book prize and an award from the U.S. Society of Architectural Historians. Appointed a fellow of Dumbarton Oaks by Harvard University in 2013, she embarked on her ongoing research project 'Revolutionary Landscapes: Ireland, France and America 1770-1810'. She is editor of *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*, the Journal of the Irish Georgian Society,

**David Skinner** specialises in printing, conserving and writing about historic wallpaper in Ireland. His studio has produced many hand-printed reproductions of Irish patterns which have been used in restoration projects, homes and film productions across the world. He is the author of *Wallpaper in Ireland 1700-1900*, Churchill House Press, 2014.

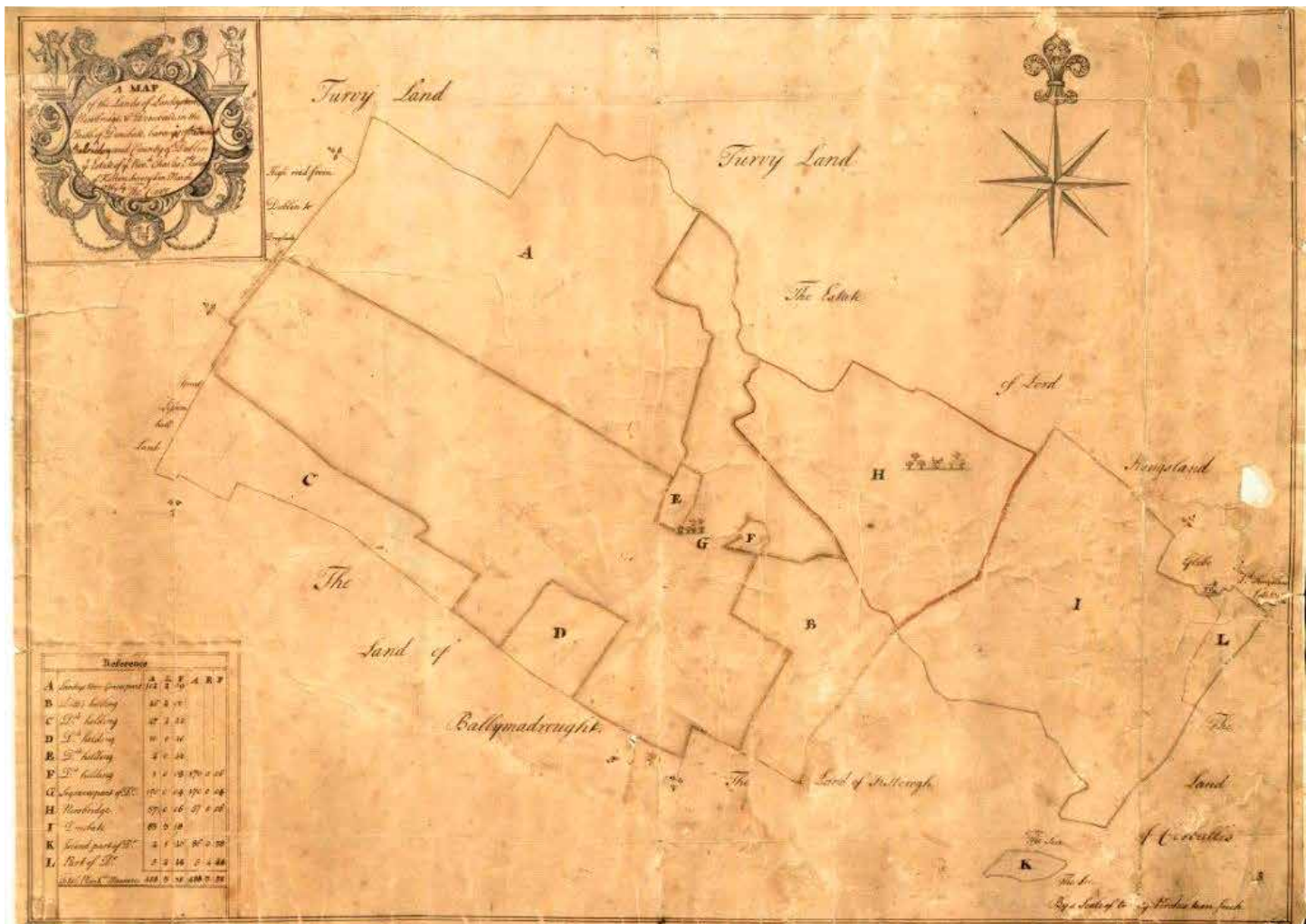
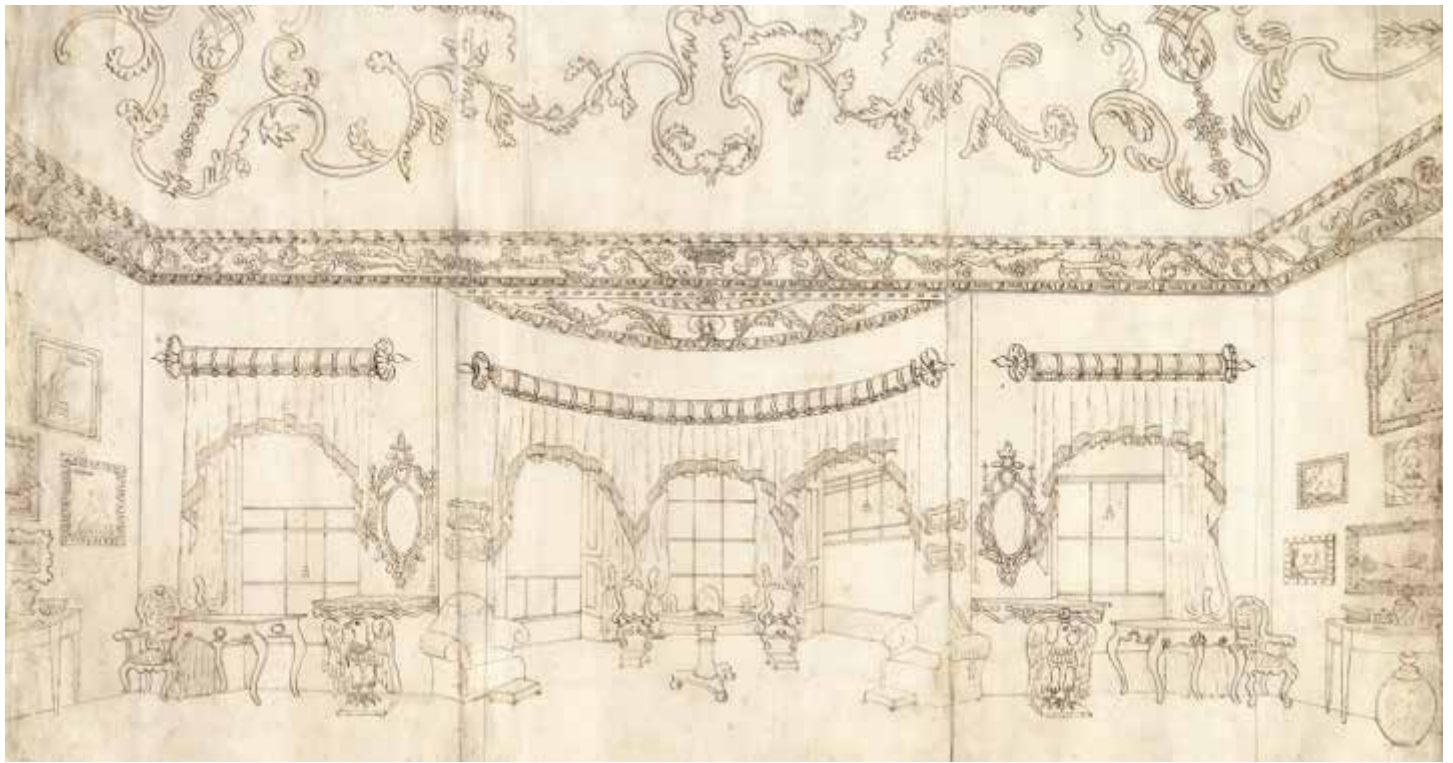
**Dr Adriaan E. Waiboer** studied at the Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, and has a Ph.D. from New York University. He has been Curator of Northern European Art at the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, since 2004. Waiboer has organised a number of exhibitions, among them *Northern Nocturnes: Nightscapes in the Age of Rembrandt* (2005), *Vermeer, Fabritius & De Hooch: Three Masterpieces from Delft* (2009) and *Gabriel Metsu: Rediscovered Master of the Dutch Golden Age* (2010-11). He is currently preparing the exhibition *Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Paintings: Inspiration and Rivalry*, which is due to take place at the Musée du Louvre, Paris, the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, and the National Gallery of Art, Washington in 2017-18.

**Professor David Watkin**, MA, PhD, LittD, Hon FRIBA, FSA is Professor Emeritus of History of Architecture in the Department of History of Art at the University of Cambridge and Emeritus Fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge. He has also taught at the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture. An Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, he is a former Vice-Chairman of the Georgian Group, as well as a member of the Historic Buildings Council and its successor bodies in English Heritage from 1980-1995. He has published many architectural books to include: *Sir John Soane: Enlightenment Thought and the Royal Academy Lectures*; *Thomas Hope and the Neo-Classical Idea*; *The Life and Work of C.R. Cockerell*; *Morality and Architecture*; *Radical Classicism: The Architecture of Quinlan Terry*, and *A History of Western Architecture*.



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Top: The drawing room at Newbridge House, recorded by Frances Power Cobbe, at least partly with the aid of camera obscura or camera lucida, c. 1840. Cobbe Collection no. 198. Reproduced with the kind permission of Alec Cobbe. Bottom: Thomas Cave 1736. A Map of the Lands of Landeystown, Newbridge & Donabate, baronies of Nethercross Ballruddery and County of Dublin ye. Estate of ye. Revd. Charles Ld Bishop of Kildare.





# NEWBRIDGE HOUSE

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## STUDY DAY BOOKING FORM

Bookings can be made online through the Irish Georgian Society website [www.igs.ie](http://www.igs.ie) or by post using the booking form below. Booking forms should be returned to:

Irish Georgian Society  
City Assembly House  
58 South William Street, Dublin 2  
ph. 01-679 8675  
Email: [info@igs.ie](mailto:info@igs.ie)

### Cancellation Policy

Bookings cancelled more than 7 days in advance will be refunded, less an administration fee of €10 per person. Cancellations within 7 days will not be refunded. Delegates names can be changed up to 7 days in advance.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of places required under each category:

€80 per IGS member \_\_\_\_\_

€90 per non-member \_\_\_\_\_

€145 per IGS member + *The Cobbe Cabinet of Curiosities: An Anglo-Irish Country House Museum* book \_\_\_\_\_

€155 per non-member + *The Cobbe Cabinet of Curiosities: An Anglo-Irish Country House Museum* book \_\_\_\_\_

Names and organisation of delegate(s) (as to appear on delegate's badge):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please specify any dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque amount: \_\_\_\_\_ (All cheques made payable to Irish Georgian Society)

Visa Card / Visa Debit / Mastercard No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date (MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code (CVV - Last 3 digits on back of card): \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order No.: \_\_\_\_\_