



# Ethiopia

## An Ancient Land Explored

Project updates: from Shobdon Church to St Albans  
Full 2011 Events Programme



## Message from the Chief Executive

On 7 October 2010, we visited Shobdon Church in Herefordshire. It was built from 1752 in the Gothick revival style, and stands almost intact amidst fine trees, relics of the parkland once surrounding the long-gone mansion of its patrons, the Bateman family.

Times and fortunes have changed at Shobdon. We were at the 2010 Watch-listed site in support of its campaign to halt structural failure, and stitch its walls and trusses back together before it collapses. Such things aren't cheap and typically beyond the means of small rural communities. So, we came to present a challenge to the parishioners with a generous gift of £50,000 from the Paul Mellon Estate: for every pound we raised together, a pound from this gift would be released. Three months have passed since then. Page 3 explains the progress of the challenge, which, like the appeal for Stowe's Music Room last Summer, met once again with a wonderful response from WMF supporters. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you warmly.

Another Watch site is approaching the final stages of a WMF Robert W. Wilson challenge: Stowe. We have raised all but £410,000 of the £9 million required to keep the weather out, restore a

circuit of the historic interiors and open Stowe to the public in Easter 2012. To see a year's progress on film, and the thoughts of Kevin McCloud and David Starkey on Stowe, please go to [www.wmf.org.uk/resources/films](http://www.wmf.org.uk/resources/films).

For all this work, there remains an immense challenge in Britain. When English Heritage surveyed Grade I and Grade II\* buildings in 2010, it found that 3.1% were at risk- 968 of our best buildings. A walk through any British city reveals scores of fine buildings in a state of decay, and during a recession compounded by reduced state funding, things will only worsen. So we must act to help owners to achieve the means they need to deliver a secure and useful future for our historic places.

The 2012 Watch is in preparation. Nominations are due in March and selected by a jury over the Summer. Then, the successful sites will be launched in October. If you have learned of any historic sites in need, led by a public body or trust with visionary plan of action, do please let us know. We are looking forward to helping to shape the next chapter of our shared history.

**Jonathan Foyle**  
[jonathan@wmf.org.uk](mailto:jonathan@wmf.org.uk)

## 2012 Watch sites sought!

A reminder to those who might know of important heritage sites that could benefit from our support and advocacy: the deadline for nominations to next year's Watch List is 15 March 2011.

Information on the Watch can be found on our website at [www.wmf.org.uk/wmf\\_watch/](http://www.wmf.org.uk/wmf_watch/)

Alternatively you can discuss a potential nomination by contacting David Gundry at [david@wmf.org.uk](mailto:david@wmf.org.uk) or +44 (0) 20 7730 5344.



## McCloud and Starkey put weight behind Stowe Campaign

Leading broadcasters on architecture and history, Kevin McCloud and Dr David Starkey, recently and generously contributed to our new Stowe Campaign film. Kevin, best known for Channel 4's *Grand Designs* and *The Stirling Prize for Architecture*, explained that 'Stowe... represents to me some of the biggest single ideas, in one place, that have shaped our modern world.' But why should it be supported through WMF? See [www.wmf.org.uk/resources/films](http://www.wmf.org.uk/resources/films)

## Stowe House, Music Room Challenge meets target

Thanks to all our members, supporters and The Paul Mellon Estate, we are very pleased to announce that we have met our Music Room Challenge in less than six months! We topped our target of £150,000 which means restoration work on the exquisite paintings decorating the ceiling and walls by Vincenzo Valdre (1742-1814) can commence very soon. This state room is amongst the finest at Stowe and we are delighted that once cleaned, the flowers, butterflies and birds which are playfully interspersed between *amoretto* and figures of gods and goddesses will confirm that this is one of the Stowe's jewels. We look forward to welcoming all those who have contributed to see for themselves Valdre's creation inspired by the Pompeian discoveries so admired by the Marquess of Buckingham on his Grand Tour in 1774. This is made possible only by your support, thank you.

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Cover image:  
Rock-hewn churches of Lalibela. Monks sit outside  
a chamber carved into the sacred rock

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# Shobdon Church Challenge nears the finish line

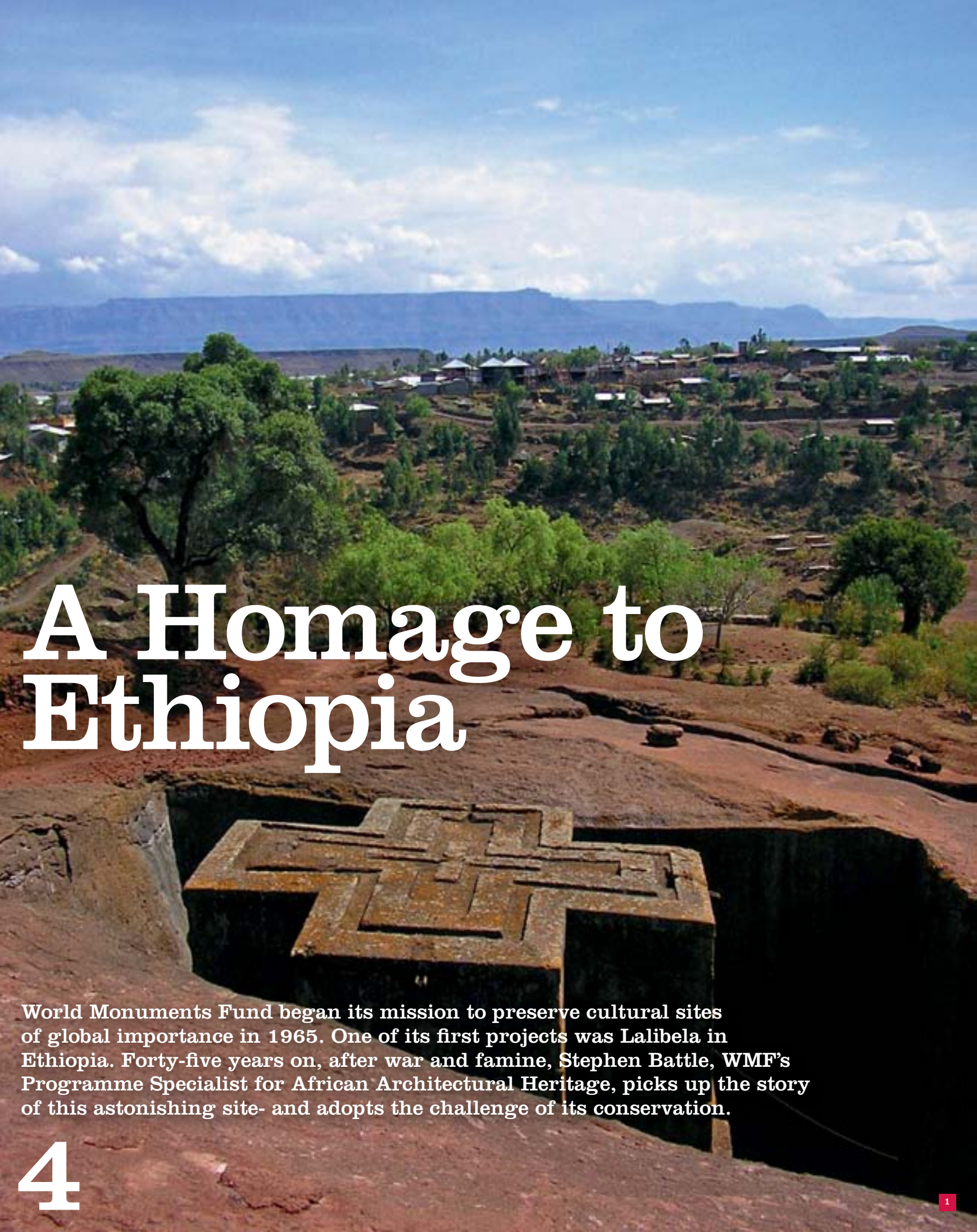
**WMF Britain and its supporters are helping to complete the fundraising required to restore The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Shobdon, Herefordshire**

In November 2010 WMF Britain announced a matching challenge grant supported by The Paul Mellon Estate to encourage donors to help raise the needed funds to restore this unique church. Thanks to the generosity of supporters of Shobdon Church and of WMF Britain, we have raised £82,224, leaving us with a match shortfall of £10,000. This, together with awards from English Heritage and the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme totalling £619,000 leaves Shobdon with a fundraising gap of just £70,000 to reach its final target of £770,766.

Shobdon was featured in the January 2011 issue of *World of Interiors*, highlighting its glorious Strawberry Hill Rococo Gothic style interiors, decorations and furnishings. Its uniqueness puts it on the 'must see list' of rural churches. WMFB together with the Shobdon Church Preservation Trust is on a mission – not only to restore this jewel but to make this church better known and encourage more visitors.

We'd like to encourage more donors to come forward, so that together we can complete the repair of this important Georgian wonder which sits in the heart of rural Herefordshire, near Leominster. We'd be most grateful if you would consider assisting us reach our match target – and beyond.

You can give online by going to our webpage [wmf.org.uk/projects/view/shobdon\\_church](http://wmf.org.uk/projects/view/shobdon_church) or, if you prefer to give by post please complete the giving form also on the webpage. Alternatively, please contact Sarah Meaker on Tel: +44 (0) 207 730 5344 or [sarah@wmf.org.uk](mailto:sarah@wmf.org.uk). To learn more about the church visit [shobdonchurch.org.uk](http://shobdonchurch.org.uk). Please note that the church will be closed for renovation for much of 2011.



# A Homage to Ethiopia

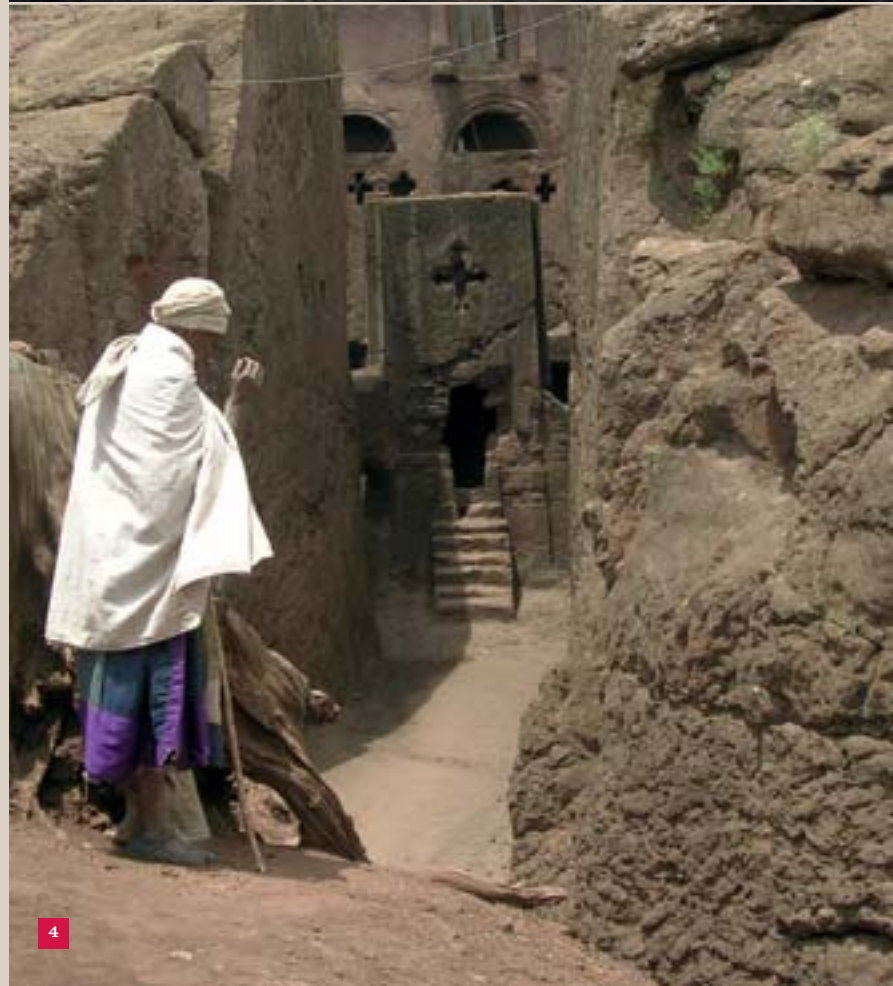
World Monuments Fund began its mission to preserve cultural sites of global importance in 1965. One of its first projects was Lalibela in Ethiopia. Forty-five years on, after war and famine, Stephen Battle, WMF's Programme Specialist for African Architectural Heritage, picks up the story of this astonishing site- and adopts the challenge of its conservation.

- 1 Church of Saint George, Lalibela. Dating from the early 13th century, it is the last built of the 11 churches at Lalibela, and the best preserved
- 2 Biet Mariam. Possibly the oldest of the churches, it retains a powerful presence despite the intrusive modern shelter constructed over it.
- 3 Banqueting Hall at the Qwesquam Palace, Gondar. Built by Princess Mentewab in the early 18th century, it is the focus of a WMF conservation project at Gondar.
- 4 Lalibela. A monk beside one of the many passageways and subterranean caverns carved into the hillside.



Few places in sub-Saharan Africa compare with Ethiopia. Other civilisations have come and gone on the continent, and at their height constructed great cities with rich and elaborate architecture; Djenné-Jeno, in present-day Mali, was once a major urban metropolis on the banks of the River Niger: the Kingdom of Benin flourished in the 16th century: when Stanley arrived at the capital of the Buganda in present-day Uganda he found a well ordered city of over 40,000 inhabitants. But although each of Africa's civilisations (and there have been many) achieved a high degree of sophistication, all built using largely ephemeral materials; earth, grass, timber. Today only fragments of these civilisations remain.

But Ethiopia is different. For over 2,000 years, the rulers of this land built using stone, and on a monumental scale. From the first Aksumite state, established around 300 BC, with its capital at Axum in northern Ethiopia, through the great building projects of the Zagwe dynasty, which reached their zenith at Lalibela in the 12th and 13th centuries, to the sophisticated royal compounds constructed at Gondar in the 17th and 18th centuries, each era of rulers left remarkable monuments to their power and prestige built in stone. Ethiopia was the first indigenous literate civilisation in sub-Saharan Africa, the only one to create its own written language, over 2,000 years ago. And whilst building in stone is not a precondition of monumentality – and this is particularly the case in Africa – the permanence of stone has given Ethiopia a distinctive sense of its own identity, rooted far back in history. Ethiopia is the only country in sub-Saharan Africa that was never colonised by Europeans, and Ethiopians remain a proud and assertive people.





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1 The Northern Group of churches at Lalibela, now covered by modern shelters.

2 Detail of a door at one of Lalibela's churches. A patch repair from conservation carried out in the 1950's is clearly visible

3 Monks sit beneath an ornately carved window at Lalibela. Motifs in the windows reflect many different stylistic influences.

4 Monumental entrance to the Adam Tomb at Lalibela.



Much of Ethiopia's distinctiveness can be traced back to its unique geography. Twice the size of France, the country marks the northern limit of the African Rift Valley. Most of the country is covered by the Ethiopian Highlands, 2,000 metres or more above sea level with peaks rising to over 4,600 metres, creating a temperate and fertile land that could sustain intensive agriculture. In the 1st century AD, the author of the *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* described Aksum as a 'metropolis' dominating trade between the Arabian Peninsula and the African interior, in gold, ivory, myrrh, frankincense and ostrich feathers. But whilst the author of the *Periplus* knew Axum's port city Adulis (modern-day Massawa) well, his knowledge of the capital far off in the highlands was sketchy. And this pattern of isolation repeats itself throughout Ethiopia's history. The Aksumite King Ezana converted to Christianity in the 4th century, and with the spread of Islam to the continent in the

7th century, Christian Ethiopia became even more isolated, a culturally distinctive, inward-looking island surrounded on all sides by different faiths, cultures and traditions.

Remarkably little is known for certain about the origins of the rock-hewn churches at Lalibela. Tradition ascribes their construction to King Lalibela, whose name means 'the bees know this child will become king', and who ruled Ethiopia from the late 12th to early 13th centuries. Jerusalem was captured by the armies of Salah ad Din in 1187, cutting Ethiopia off from the seat of the Mother Church and reinforcing its isolation, and some historians have speculated that King Lalibela chose to create an alternative place of pilgrimage. What is certain is that the landscape of Lalibela, in which the churches are just one element, is conceived as a parable of Jerusalem. The hills overlooking the site are named Calvary and Golgotha, and the River Jordan runs through it. Ancient olive trees, planted, according to legend, from olives brought back from the Garden of Gethsemane, and now gnarled and knotted, dot the landscape. Rock-hewn churches are not uncommon in Ethiopia; what is remarkable about Lalibela is the number – there are 11 in total – all built in close proximity. The structures were excavated from soft volcanic tuffa rock, interconnected by winding passageways and subterranean caverns. The architecture is an extraordinary fusion of styles, incorporating ancient motifs from Axum and the civilisations of the Upper Nile, with Coptic and Orthodox Christian iconography, together creating something entirely unique.

The first Europeans penetrated Ethiopia in the 15th century. The existence of a Christian kingdom far to the south had been rumoured in Europe for centuries, and was the origin of the legend of Prester John. In 1400, King Henry IV of England wrote to Prester John seeking his help in capturing the Holy Land. In the mid 17th century,



Emperor Fasilidas established his capital at Gondar, and the growing influence of outside ideas can be discerned in the form-making of the architecture. Cupolas, domes and crenulated walls were introduced and the royal enclosures became more grandly monumental. Contemporary accounts from European travellers describe a court of extraordinary splendour and opulence, catered to by Greek, Jewish and Indian craftsmen. One account from the mid-18th century describes the audience chamber of Empress Mentewwab at the Qwesquam Palace, decorated with painted tiles fastened by brass rosettes, adorned with heavy silk door hangings, and hung with mirrors imported from Venice.

The power of Gondar declined in the second half of the 18th century, and the city, its palaces and churches were systematically ransacked by successive waves of invaders in the 19th century. Today, only parts of the once extensive royal compounds remain, but these fragments are extraordinary. The site was listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1979 (along with Lalibela in 1978 and Axsum in 1980). Despite its significance, parts of it remain in poor condition. The Qwesquam Palace was placed on World Monument Fund's Watch List of Endangered Heritage in 1998, and in 2010 WMF launched a conservation project at the banqueting hall at the Palace. This project continues WMF's long standing commitment to conservation in Ethiopia, which stretches back to 1965 when the first conservation campaign was launched at Lalibela.

World Monuments Fund returned to Lalibela in 2008 after a long hiatus brought about by political upheaval. Monolithic structures hewn from solid rock are as strong and enduring as the stone in which they are carved, but they also retain the stone's inherent weaknesses. The rock at Lalibela was formed from volcanic ash laid down

over successive eruptions, and the bedding planes create natural fissures, which the original masons exploited. Over time, however, the fissures have gradually widened, due to seismic activity and erosion, and now, instead of acting as single, monolithic blocks, the churches behave structurally as if they were built of many individual blocks. As structures move and fissures widen, more and more rainwater percolates into the fabric, exacerbating decay processes, saturating the interior of churches and threatening their survival. In 2009, the EU funded a project to erect temporary shelters over the churches to reduce the amount of rainwater falling onto the buildings. Whilst the shelters have helped to reduce rain water damage, this success comes at a high price. The shelters are visually highly intrusive, profoundly altering the intrinsic values of the site.

The long term goal of WMF's project at Lalibela is to remove the temporary shelters, but in order to achieve this, the project has to demonstrate that effective waterproofing and conservation can be achieved using visually non-intrusive methods. An extensive period of analysis and research was completed in 2010 and site work is due to commence in early 2011. It will take time and money to conserve all the churches, but once completed, and the intrusive modern shelters are removed, the sacred parable written into the landscape by King Lalibela will once again prevail, inspiring the faithful.

## Travel to Ethiopia with WMF

In 1965, one of WMF's first field projects was at Lalibela, in Ethiopia where we surveyed and preserved the extraordinary 12th century rock-hewn churches, considered a New Jerusalem. Today, WMF presents a magical journey through this most evocative country. We will review our continued work at Lalibela, finding new solutions to ensure the site's future. We will see the ancient stelae of Axum and visit the Palaces of Gondar, the site of another WMF project. Stephen Battle, WMF's *Programme Specialist for African Architectural Heritage* and other experts will be your guides. Proposed dates are Sunday, November 5 – Sunday 13, 2011. Please note there will be significant walking on this trip, some over rather difficult terrain. To express your interest please contact Sarah Meaker on +44 (0) 20 7730 5344 or [sarah@wmf.org.uk](mailto:sarah@wmf.org.uk)

# Project Update

The newly restored Round Room at Strawberry Hill

## Strawberry Hill House

**WMF helped fund and catalyse the successful restoration and recent re-opening of Strawberry Hill, Britain's most important example of Gothic revival architecture**

We were delighted to see Strawberry Hill open to the public in October 2010. The results are spectacular, the ethos community-spirited, and over two thousand advance tickets have been sold.

Strawberry Hill near Twickenham, near the banks of the river Thames, is Britain's finest example of Georgian gothic revival ('Gothick') architecture. Having fallen into a state of extreme disrepair, it was listed by English Heritage as a site at risk in 1991. World Monuments Fund placed it on the 'Watch' in 2004, which proved catalytic in starting a campaign for its repair, restoration and public presentation. Following a £9M restoration, including a major contribution to the State Rooms through the WMF World Monuments Fund Robert W. Wilson Challenge and fund-matching partners, it is now on show for all to see.

After the 2004 Watch, the Strawberry Hill Trust was mobilised under Michael Snodin. The guiding principle in what was firmly the *restoration* of Strawberry Hill was to bring back as closely as possible the appearance and arrangement of the house at the end of Walpole's

lifetime. The exterior of the building was roughcast and painted in the shades of white that were shown in views, and actually survived in revealed fragments as if calcified porridge. His stained glass was repaired, cleaned and rearranged, as he had known it. The interiors were papered and painted in the colours that dressed them over two centuries ago.

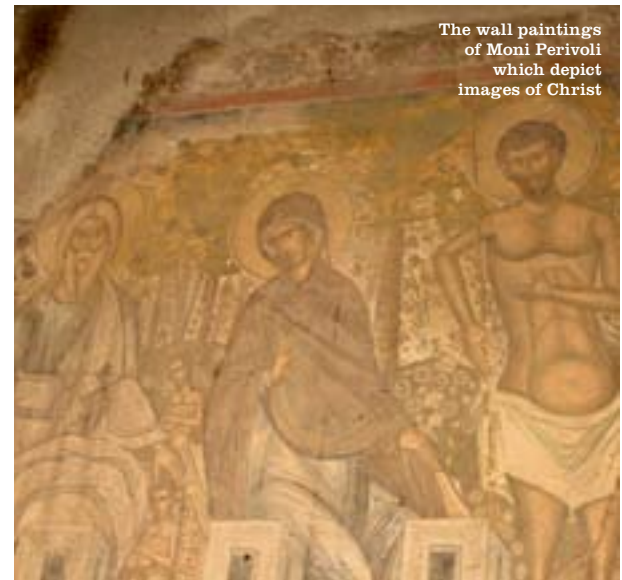
But the issue remained that the house is still attached to the nineteenth- and twentieth-century buildings of St Mary's College. If Walpole's gardens could be recaptured, especially the shady grove of trees shown in the foreground of some of his most famous views, the house would regain much of its immediate context.

One of our Trustees was sadly unable to witness the change. Isabel, Lady King an enthusiast of Strawberry Hill, sadly died on New Year's Day 2010. So when Carole Patey, a Strawberry Hill Trustee, suggested that the replanting of Walpole's Grove of lime trees may be an appropriate memorial for Isabel, we agreed: private donations and funds from The Paul Mellon Estate allowed for its full replanting. The digging-in ceremony was held on 12 January with the gracious spadework of Isabel's nieces Charlotte Townshend and Emily Holden observed by WMFB trustees and staff. Long may the grove, and Strawberry Hill, prosper.





St Albans is renowned for its vast congregation



The wall paintings of Moni Perivoli which depict images of Christ

## St Albans

**WMF has come together with St Albans cathedral to investigate the best way forward for this magnificent medieval church**

The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban is replete with unrealised potential. St Albans is the longest continuous site of Christian worship in Britain, the now lost scriptorium was unique in its record keeping of English medieval history – notably by the chronicler Matthew Paris – and it is a recognised leader in the field of Cathedral education. But the Cathedral lacks the space and facilities to communicate this cultural heritage to a wide audience. Socially, the Cathedral provides vital services for its congregation and to the wider St Albans community, but it lacks the space to meet demands and fulfil its potential benefit to the city. Economically, public events and concerts, the Cathedral cafe and other enterprises are currently working at capacity meaning that the necessary income to maintain this extraordinary building cannot be achieved.

During the second half of 2010 World Monuments Fund Britain and the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban partnered to think creatively about how the Cathedral can fulfil its cultural, social and economic potential. The project involved the employment of a team of specialist consultants in business, education, architectural and environmental planning to investigate making the cultural and social benefits of the Cathedral available to the widest possible audience. A key question for the team was whether the construction of a new building could meet the Cathedral's needs and be financially sustainable.

The result of these studies was that the costs and opportunities of enhancing the Cathedral's services and facilities were qualified and an area of land was identified that could be the location of a new building. The area of land surrounding the Cathedral contains many valuable archaeological remains and is naturally very sensitive to development of any kind that might impact this or the character and setting of the Cathedral more generally. The next step of the project will involve the cathedral Chapter beginning the process of consultation with the necessary authorities.

The results of these studies will be brought together in 2011 to present a coherent recommendation of the road forward, a process that WMFB has been delighted to support.

## Lesvos Churches

**The remarkable paintings and interior of Moni Perivoli now have a proper conservation plan thanks to a new WMF initiative**

Moni Perivoli, one of the most exceptional amongst a group of churches on the Greek island of Lesvos nominated to the 2008 and 2010 Watch List, has recently benefited from WMFB support.

Lesvos is located in the Aegean Sea and is dotted throughout with religious architecture built from the Paleochristian to post-Byzantine periods. Moni Perivoli is a monastic complex located in the west of this mountainous island built around 1350 comprising a perimeter wall, interior courtyard, convent and church. The complex was previously used as a men's monastery and then used as a women's convent and remains a focus of the monastic and religious life of the island as well as a destination for pilgrimages from across the globe. Since the 1990s, it has been used for weddings, funerals, baptisms, religious festivals and feast days.

The modest exterior belies its interior, which boasts the island's only complete cycle of late 16th and early 17th century wall paintings. The paintings depict the life of Christ and range in styles according to the artists' skills, techniques and origins.

In summer 2010, with enthusiastic local support in the form of in-kind contributions and financial support of donors in the United States and United Kingdom, three students from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation worked at the site under the supervision of a senior conservator to produce initial documentation of the mural paintings and their conditions. The team completed exterior and interior measured drawings of the church and courtyard. They also monitored humidity and documented the condition of the building which revealed a relationship between drainage of water through the courtyard, moisture levels within the walls and delamination of plaster on interior walls.

These findings enabled the team to make recommendations to immediately improve the environment of the church as well as contributing to a conservation plan to preserve these fragile wall paintings which will continue later this year.



Charlotte Townshend and Emily Holden, nieces of the late Lady King

# Study Day series Spring 2011

**WMF Britain's study day series for Spring 2011 is presented in partnership with Symm, the leading specialist building company founded in 1815.**

To book an event please call +44 (0) 20 7730 5344 or book online at [www.wmf.org.uk/activities](http://www.wmf.org.uk/activities). Alternatively, complete the insert in this magazine.



**Great Churches Conference**  
Thursday 31 March,  
10am–4pm  
Winchester Cathedral

England's cathedrals are amongst its chief architectural glories. But all have their challenges. WMF recently facilitated The Oculus visitor centre at St Pauls with American Express, and is supporting carving work at Winchester. This day of seminars from a range of cathedral specialists with lunch and a detailed tour offers a broader, national context for that work.

Members £45, Non-members £55



**St Paul's and the City Churches**  
Thursday 14 April,  
10am–4pm  
London

Gavin Stamp returns to lead an exploration of the work of Sir Christopher Wren, the presiding genius of post-fire London. The inventive spaces of the smaller churches and the magnificent volumes of WMF and Amex-sponsored St Paul's Cathedral are host to delightful details by some of the country's finest ever master craftsmen.

Members £70, Non-members £80



**Victorian London**  
Tuesday 17 May,  
10am–4pm  
London

Paul Atterbury, best known from BBC1's Antiques Roadshow, leads this study day on 'Albertopolis', South Kensington's nineteenth-century Museum Quarter. Paul guides us through his choices from the Royal Albert Hall to the Victorian collections in the V&A and explains the significance and symbolism in the WMF-backed Albert Memorial.

Members £70, Non-members £80



**Stowe House and Landscape Gardens**  
Wednesday 1 June,  
10am–4pm  
Stowe, Buckinghamshire

Stowe is at its best in May. Previous visitors will be amazed to see the progress in the WMF-funded house, whilst the gardens are transformed into early Summer foliage. Richard Wheeler of the National Trust explains the history of the site, and the progress of our partners the National Trust at New Inn Farm.

Members £70, Non-members £80

Prices include refreshments throughout the day and all entrances

Ticket prices include a voluntary donation to WMF Britain

Locations, timings and speakers may be subject to change

Times are approximate and may include travelling time

All days include some walking between the sites

All Study Days kindly sponsored by Symm ([www.symm.co.uk](http://www.symm.co.uk))

SYMM

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## Summer Party

Save the date!

Monday 6 June (6.30pm) has been set for this year's summer party. And we're delighted that we have secured the magnificent Bridgewater House, St James's as our venue.

We hope you can join us in celebrating the difference that we and our partners have made through shaping and supporting projects which have both improved exceptional places and enhanced our everyday lives.

All members will receive more information in due course.

# Lectures & Talks 2011

## 2011 World Monuments Fund Britain Paul Mellon Lecture

Tuesday, 28 June, 6.45pm  
Winchester Cathedral  
with Dr. John Crook, Mr. David Esterly  
and Mr. David Luard

*The Pattern of Painful Adventures: how history has shaped Winchester's high alter canopy and its carving*

Generously supported by The Paul Mellon Estate, this evening lecture will celebrate the successful conservation of the High Altar canopy fragments as the result of a partnership between WMFB and Winchester Cathedral. By bringing together the experts who worked on the project the story of the High Altar canopy, its place within the development of English woodcarving, the changing role it has played in the life of Cathedral and its current conservation and representation will be explored.

Tickets can be purchased for £6.75 (including 75p booking fee) from the Winchester Cathedral ticket booking office: Internet: [www.tickets.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/public/](http://www.tickets.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/public/) Telephone: +44 (0) 1962 857275

## Don McCullin & Barnaby Rogerson: Southern Roman Frontiers

Monday, 12 September, 7pm  
Royal Geographical Society,  
Kensington London

Don McCullin's reputation as the greatest photographer of conflict has been replaced in recent years with an image of McCullin as the great traveller. He is now as familiar with far-flung parts of the globe as he was once accustomed to life in the war zone. Perhaps his most ambitious journey yet has been to explore the fringes of the Roman Empire, as he does in his magisterial book, *Southern Frontiers* with text contributed by a historian of North Africa, Barnaby Rogerson. From the ruins of Baalbek in the Lebanon to Aleppo in Syria, it is also a sweeping journey through the North African coastal countries Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya - many of which are WMF Watch Sites.

WMFB Members £10, Non-members £15

## Julian Fellowes: On Location at the Country House

Thursday 29 September, 7pm  
Royal Geographical Society,  
Kensington, London

As the acclaimed writer of Gosford Park, Young Victoria and Downton Abbey, Oscar-winner Julian Fellowes ensured that his gripping historical narratives were filmed within ideal historic locations. But how were those sites chosen? What were the challenges of dressing buildings and gardens as scenography? And how did various historic settings ultimately contribute to the story? Julian explains all tonight, in conversation with Jonathan Foyle and the audience.

WMFB members £10, Non-members £15

Lecture kindly sponsored by  
Symm ([www.symm.co.uk](http://www.symm.co.uk))

SYMM

## Britain's Buildings, Lost and Saved

Wednesday 26 October, 7pm  
Royal Geographical Society,  
Kensington, London

The 2012 World Monuments Watch will be launched in October 2011. It will include a number of British sites at risk, highlighting some of the challenges we currently face in preserving our built environment. This evening features an account of the Watch with the UK sites, followed by presentations from prominent authors on vanished buildings: Philip Davies (*Lost London*) and Gavin Stamp (*Lost Victorian Britain*), with an audience-led discussion on the best way forward.

WMFB members £10, Non-members £15

Lecture kindly sponsored by  
Symm ([www.symm.co.uk](http://www.symm.co.uk))

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# International trips 2011/12

## Turkey

15-24 September, 2011

Join World Monuments Fund on its tour of Istanbul and eastern Turkey from September 15-24, 2011. Straddling Europe and Asia and home at various times to the Hittites, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans, Turkey contains a wealth of magnificent historical sites. Our tour will visit many of its highlights and feature exclusive access to several World Monuments Fund project sites.

Starting in Istanbul, travellers will experience what was founded in 324 as the new capital of the Rome by the emperor Constantine and the most important city in Europe for almost one thousand years. Proceeding into eastern Turkey, we will enjoy stops in Cappadocia, Ankara, Erzurum, and Yusufeli. Concluding our journey in Kars, we will visit several sites in Ani, the medieval capital of Armenia, known for its breathtaking scenery and spectacular architecture.

For more information please contact Ashley Tierney at [atierney@wmf.org](mailto:atierney@wmf.org)

## Ethiopia

5-13 November, 2011

In 1965, one of WMF's first field projects was at Lalibela, in Ethiopia where we surveyed and preserved the extraordinary 12th century rock-hewn churches, considered a New Jerusalem. Today, WMF presents a magical journey through this most evocative country. We will review our continued work at Lalibela, finding new solutions to ensure the site's future. We will see the ancient stelae of Axum and visit the Palaces of Gondar, the site of another WMF project.

Stephen Battle, WMF's *Programme Specialist for African Architectural Heritage* and other experts will be your guides. Proposed dates are Sunday, November 5-Sunday 13, 2011. Please note there will be significant walking on this trip, some over rather difficult terrain.

## Syria

16-24 April, 2012

At the crossroads of the Middle East, Syria's rich history dates back to the beginnings of civilisation. It is a fascinating country, stretching from the shores of the Mediterranean Sea to beyond the Euphrates River, and is extraordinarily rich in historical sites. These ancient places are refreshingly free of commercial ventures with an atmosphere of uncluttered authenticity no longer present at more well-trodden historical locations. Stately Roman ruins, ornately-painted Byzantine basilicas, awe-inspiring fortress-castles built by the Crusaders, and elegant Ottoman turbas (tombs) - all and more abound in this ancient land.

On this 8 day trip, often in the steps of Lawrence of Arabia and Robert Byron, we will admire the Krak de Chevaliers, possibly the greatest castle in the world; see the magical ruins of Palmyra as they rise suddenly out of the infinite desert; and explore the more than eight kilometres of Aleppo's famous covered souk. The Omayyad mosque in Damascus is one of the finest mosques in the Islamic world.

To express your interest in the Ethiopian or Syrian trips, please contact Sarah Meaker on +44 (0) 20 7730 5344 or [sarah@wmf.org](mailto:sarah@wmf.org)

Below: Church of Bet Giyorgis, Lalibela, Ethiopia

Bottom: The ruins of Palmyra in Syria.



# Perfect Symmetry

WMF Britain's partnership with Symm continues through 2011

Symm, one of the UK's premier building companies, has been an esteemed sponsor of WMF Britain since 2008. Symm is a natural partner to WMF through its commitment to excellence in construction and building craft skills, and is a generous sponsor of our charitable objective to educate and enthuse people about our historic environment. We're delighted that Symm will continue to sponsor WMF Britain's public events through 2011.

Aidan Mortimer, CEO, Symm comments "We are committed to the important work of the WMF and its preservation of endangered architectural and cultural sites around the world. We are very pleased to support the third year of these highly informative and interesting days"

For enquiries about Symm's work please contact Marilyn Morris on Tel: 01865 254939. Or email [marilynm@symm.co.uk](mailto:marilynm@symm.co.uk).

SYMM



Aidan Mortimer, Chief Executive of Symm

# Join World Monuments Fund Britain

World Monuments Fund membership is designed for people who like to contribute to saving cultural heritage whilst enjoying access to unique lectures, study days and events as well as entry to an array of architectural masterpieces, all at preferential rates.

For an annual payment, members receive as standard:

- *Monumentum*, WMF Britain's biannual magazine, packed with news and features
- Discounted rate to some of the best arts and architectural events in Britain, including private views of major exhibitions, as well as talks from speakers such as David Starkey and Kevin McCloud.
- Our exclusive Symm Study Days explore the finest architecture in Britain, and our members receive a significant discount.
- You will also have the unique opportunity to travel on exclusive trips in order to discover and savour the beauty of foreign art and architecture. Each trip is hosted by architectural and conservation specialists and is accompanied by WMF staff.

## £45

### Foundation Member

- 2 issues of *Monumentum*
- 2 discounted tickets per event or lecture
- Concessions: Students and under 30s £30

## £100

### Keystone Member

- 2 issues of *Monumentum*
- 2 discounted tickets per lecture
- Invitations to special member events and private tours abroad.
- Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites

## £350

### Capital 'Patron' Member

- 2 issues of *Monumentum*
- 2 free tickets per lecture and 2 further discounted tickets per lecture Invitations to special member events and private tours abroad.
- Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites plus other special WMF publications

## £3000

### International Council Member

- The International Council is a dedicated group of WMF supporters who participate in specially organised trips, lectures, receptions, along with other events focussing on WMF's work and who bring their networks to bear as advocates for our mission.

To become a member of our lively and essential organisation please call Sarah Meaker on +44 (0) 20 7730 5344; or go to our website at [www.wmf.org.uk/](http://www.wmf.org.uk/) involved and join online. Alternatively you can join by post by completing the form in this magazine.

Thank you for your support.

