COVENTRY CATHEDRAL IN 2012
A Golden Jubilee and WMF Watch Listing
1 WMF supporters attended a trip to Ethiopia in November, led by Stephen Battle, WMF Program Director, Sub-Saharan Africa. Here the group visits the Mentewab-Qwesquam Palace in Gondar.

2 The acclaimed writer of Downton Abbey, Julian Fellowes, thrilled guests with behind-the-scenes tales at the Royal Geographical Society on 29 September.

3 Jonathan Foyle interviews Julian Fellowes at the Royal Geographical Society.

4 Jonathan Foyle is joined by (L to R) Gavin Stamp and Philip Davies prior to a presentation by the pair on Britain’s lost buildings at the Royal Geographical Society.

5 Over 200 guests joined us to launch our imaginative partnership with Coventry Cathedral on 14 November, the 71st anniversary of the bombing of St Michael’s Cathedral.
It’s tempting to herald the new year; to reflect on the economic trough we operate within. But neither fit the schedule or character of our current work.

For one thing, our major project at Coventry Cathedral was begun last summer and has taken the last eight months of research, planning and partnership building. The ailing ruins of the old cathedral and its hidden store of salvaged stained glass — much of it six hundred years old — which are our focus, set our efforts within a much longer perspective.

What we found when launching the Coventry campaign on 14 November — the 71st anniversary of the city’s bombing in 1940 — was a groundswell of support. The Sikh and Muslim communities of Coventry immediately pledged their help; £10,000 in cash donations poured in from the public the City Council are firm partners in improving the Cathedral Quarter and everyone we speak to is interested in revealing the extraordinary historic assets of this overlooked city.

We have been met with great generosity from contributors to our £10 million Stowe campaign, which is now within five figures, so 99% of the challenge is now completed. We are seeking a donor to get us over the line and claim victory on a £20 million restoration, a plan that would seem impossible were it to begin now. The HLF has given the project a Round 1 pass with support for a new member of staff to spearhead the public access and interpretation centre, and BBC1’s Antiques Roadshow were sufficiently inspired to be filming two episodes at Stowe House this summer.

Beyond the progress of work, there are a couple of coincidences with the start of 2012. We have moved offices to Farringdon, a vibrant creative quarter where we feel very much at home. And we have been joined by our new Project Manager Melissa Marshall and Development Manager Jules Osborn, who are clearly brilliant and committed.

Yet the scale and variety of the sites at risk on the 2012 Watch — featured in this issue — reminds us that we can’t be complacent. The resources necessary to provide professional support and the momentum of a campaign are great, and we are thankful for the ongoing support of both professional peers and supporters. So please join us at our events, spread the word and support us if you can. It’ll help us to generate more good news in hard times.
2012 WATCH REVIEW

A broad array of challenges for historic sites in the UK

In early October, World Monuments Fund announced the 2012 World Monuments Watch, a global call to action for an array of endangered heritage sites issued every two years. For 2012, a total of 67 sites have been identified. Five nominations (totalling seven sites) are in the UK and its dependencies, more than in any other country.

Nominated by local stakeholders and selected by an international panel of experts, the Watch acts as an authoritative global call to action. It has also often served as a springboard for WMF project partnerships.

In previous years, the Watch has proven effective as a vehicle for a number of UK sites that developed into major conservation initiatives. Strawberry Hill’s inclusion in the 2004 Watch provided the impetus for the creation of the Strawberry Hill Trust and WMF support for the restoration of some of Walpole’s main rooms; Stowe’s listing in 2002 initiated one of WMF’s largest capital campaigns to date for its restoration programme with imaginative public presentation, to be completed in 2013. Hawksmoor’s St George’s Bloomsbury was transformed after its inclusion in the 2002 Watch, and Shobdon Church in Herefordshire met its funding gap of £800,000 after inclusion in the 2010 Watch.

RUINS OF THE FORMER CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

Coventry, West Midlands

Sixteen years after Coventry Cathedral was gutted by incendiary bombs during World War II, a new cathedral arose which preserved the adjacent ruins as a constant reminder of conflict, the need for reconciliation, and the enduring search for peace. The old Cathedral Church of St. Michael was once the largest parish church in England and was elevated to be the seat of a bishop in 1918. The new cathedral makes Coventry the only British city to have had three cathedrals.

Today there is limited interpretation of the ruined cathedral and all it represents. It is consecrated as a unique gathering place and site of reflection, the weathered medieval sandstone of the ruined tower, apse, and outer walls framing the open air space. However, exposure to the elements and poor drainage have caused structural deterioration, which requires immediate action. Stabilising the ruins will be a first step in preserving this important landmark and renewing this sacred space. But there is strong potential at Coventry to realise its hidden assets, not least the potential to display thousands of fragments of medieval glass removed from St. Michael before it was bombed.

UPDATE

www.wmf.org/project/ruins-former-cathedral-church-st-michael-coventry

A £2 million project to clear crypts and clean and present medieval glass was launched 14 November 2011, with BBC publicity.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-15694422

Please contact Jules Osborn on 020 7251 8142 or jules@wmf.org.uk to discuss a donation.

To view the full list of sites go to

WWW.WORLDMONUMENTSWATCH.ORG
**BRITISH BRUTALISM**

**Birmingham, Preston and London**

The term “brutalism” is derived from the French “betón brut,” meaning “raw concrete,” and refers to a style of late modernist architecture that emerged during the second half of the twentieth century. The inclusion of three British buildings on the Watch underscores the risk to modern architecture around the world, especially to the underappreciated legacy of brutalism. It is characterised by bold geometries, the exposure of structural materials and functional spatial design.

When it opened in 1976, London’s South Bank Centre was deemed a visionary combination of performance spaces and an art gallery, but lack of heritage status puts the architectural complex at risk. The Preston Bus Station is a daring concrete structure housing an integrated car parking, bus, and taxi facility. Upon its completion in 1969, it was the world’s largest bus station. Birmingham Central Library is a monumental hub in the civic center of the city and the largest non-national library in Europe. Both the station and the library are threatened by demolition due to redevelopment schemes.

**QUARR ABBEY**

**Rye, Isle of Wight**

The ancient, now-ruined Cistercian Abbey of St. Mary’s at Quarr was founded by Baldwin de Redvers in 1132 A.D. on the windswept cliffs and ancient woodland of the Isle of Wight. Its religious and defensive architecture developed over four centuries until the Dissolution. The modern Quarr Abbey was constructed in the early twentieth-century by architect Dom Paul Bellot after the arrival of an order of French Benedictine monks. His monastic buildings, considered some of the most important twentieth-century religious structures in the United Kingdom, are of Belgian brick in a Franco-Moorish style. The complex is surrounded by a beautiful and varied landscape.

The medieval ruins are in need of repair, as are the monastic buildings and surrounding infrastructure. The shrinking community of monks has been challenged by the maintenance of the abbey and its cultural resources.

**NEWSTEAD ABBEY**

**Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire**

Newstead Abbey is best known today as the ancestral home of Lord Byron (1788–1824). The original Newstead Abbey was founded by Henry II as an Augustinian priory in the twelfth century. In 1540, following the Dissolution, the property was offered to the Byron family by Henry VIII and converted into a residence.

The main building suffered from neglect and deterioration and in his poem “On Leaving Newstead Abbey” (1807) the Romantic poet lamented “Thou, the hall of my Fathers, art gone to decay.” Lord Byron sold the property in 1818 to his childhood friend Thomas Wildman, who spent much of his wealth to restore and redecorate it, and opened it to visitors. After subsequent changes in ownership it was donated to the city of Nottingham in 1931.

Though the surrounding parklands and gardens are well visited, opening hours for the house museum have been limited to two hours per week due to insufficient resources. Newstead Abbey has suffered deterioration, and a strategy for its conservation and long-term maintenance with community involvement is greatly needed.

**UPDATE**

Inclusion on the Watch created national and local media coverage discussion and strengthened the advocates of Preston’s protection. Alternatives for adaptive reuse, are now being explored as an option.

Nottingham City Council and WMF Britain are in discussion about a community engagement event through which to secure voluntary and community support and identify new audiences, with support from the Paul Mellon Estate.

The Watch listed status is considered to have strengthened a current Heritage Lottery Fund application and has bolstered the campaign in national and local media.
New Zealand’s colonists of the mid-1800s constructed government buildings reminiscent of those in London — in the Gothic Revival style then redolent of civic morality. The offices, towers and council chambers were built of timber and stone, and served as the seat of the Provincial Government of Canterbury until 1867, after which time the complex was used as offices for central government departments. The buildings, designed by architect Benjamin Mountfort, remained largely unchanged throughout the twentieth century, and make up one of the earliest Gothic Revival complexes of government buildings in the world.

However, in the devastating earthquakes of September 2010 and February 2011, the fine Stone Chamber was reduced to ruins and the entire complex has been closed to the public for safety reasons. The repair, reconstruction and seismic strengthening of the buildings would support heritage recovery efforts in Christchurch and open opportunities to advance the knowledge of seismic protection of unreinforced masonry buildings, as well as encourage other rehabilitation projects in the province.

Saint Helena’s built heritage, including Banks Battery and High Knoll, has increasingly suffered from deterioration and partial collapse as a lack of investment, government support and legislative protection have made it difficult to maintain or improve the condition of many sites. Saint Helena is not eligible for most conservation funding available in the United Kingdom, even though it is a British Territory. If more resources were made available to the island, the conserved built heritage could be used to bolster the economy through tourism development, especially after the construction of a planned airport.
East Japan Earthquake Heritage Sites
Tōhoku and Kantō Regions, Japan

On March 11 2011, a powerful earthquake struck off the northeast coast of Japan. In the wake of the catastrophic tsunami, many thousands lost their lives and millions were left without electricity and water. The recovery is expected to take many years to complete.

More than 700 national landmarks were damaged by the recent earthquake, most located in the Tōhoku and Kantō regions. In addition to these sites, many other traditional buildings and historic townscape were damaged, in places like the coastal city of Kesennuma in the Tōhoku region. Although traditional Japanese architecture is known for being earthquake-resistant, countless historic buildings are in need of attention to repair cracks, deformation, and partial or complete collapses. While the earthquake’s toll on the people of Japan has been well noted in the press, the conservation and restoration of significant cultural sites is a high priority that can be highlighted through the Watch and can be catalytic in securing necessary funding and technical expertise.

UPDATE

On November 2 in Tokyo, World Monuments Fund and the Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Art Research launched Save Our Culture (SOC), an international effort to help cultural heritage sites affected by the earthquake and tsunami.

To view the full list of sites go to www.worldmonumentswatch.org
THERE’S SOMETHING ABOUT QUSAYR’ AMRA
The World Monuments Watch is often described as a ‘call to action’ to help heritage sites around the world gain greater attention for their significance and conservation needs. The Watch program is also a powerful tool for discovering sites around the world of magnificent beauty and cultural importance, yet little known even to intrepid travellers. Every Watch announcement brings forward new sites to be explored and many become very much a part of the lives of WMF’s staff.

One such site is Qusayr’Amra, just a short distance east of Amman in Jordan. The eighth-century Umayyad period residence was discovered by the Czech traveler Alois Musil in 1898. Since that time Qusayr’Amra has been recognized as a site of tremendous value and was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985. The complex includes a reception hall, bath, and other structures. One of the most striking features of QusayrAmra is an extensive cycle of wall paintings, representing hunting and dancing scenes, as well as craftsmen at work. The calidarium (warming-room) ceiling illustrates constellations and zodiac signs and is the earliest surviving example of representations of heaven on a hemispherical surface. Scholars note that the iconography of the wall paintings represents a synthesis of Byzantine, classical and Eastern influences, as well as themes derived from Ghassanid and Sasanian traditions. Perhaps the best known of the images from Qusayr’Amra represents six kings and depicts the Umayyad ruler with the Byzantine emperor, the Sassanian King, the Emperor of China, the Visigothic King of Spain, and the King of Abyssinia.

The inclusion of Qusayr’Amra in the 2008 World Monuments Watch drew attention to two problems, regrettably found at sites throughout the world; the need for greater attention to the causes of water damage affecting the structure and the desire to improve the visitor experience. Conditions at the site altered throughout the 20th century. Modern roads and other improvements to the general landscape required changes in maintenance. Over time, water infiltration took its toll on the historic structure and its decorative interiors. In recent years, WMF, ISCR (Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro—ISCR), and the Jordanian authorities undertook documentation to understand better the needs of the site, and workshops were conducted to assure all had the required tools and knowledge. Visitors needed more information to appreciate the importance of Qusayr’Amra, but also so they could be told how fragile the spectacular interiors are and why their role in protecting the site is so important. To date, the project has addressed conservation of the building’s exterior using lime mortar, repair...
and replacement of modern fixtures to stop water ingress and better protect the site from flora and fauna that harm the historic surfaces. ISCR has undertaken extensive studies of the interior to develop cleaning strategies for the painted surfaces. In the coming year much work will focus on addressing materials applied to the painted surfaces in recent decades that can be removed to reveal more fully the beauty of the colorful scenes depicted. New visitor circulation plans and signage will be developed in coordination with the Department of Antiquities.

In 2010 and 2011, WMF discovered that many scholars recorded their visits in writing and through photography since the time of its discovery. Colleagues have been generous in granting permission to review these historic images, which assists the conservators in understanding more fully the evolution of the site throughout the last century. Institutions that have conducted studies on the site in the past and have offered their assistance and access to archival materials are: the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the CNRS in France, the Institut Français du Proche Orient (IFPO) in Jordan, the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Jordan, the Pergamon Museum and the Rathgen Research laboratories in Berlin, Germany, the Academic Society of Alois Musil in Prague, the Gertrude Bell Archive in Newcastle, the Creswell Archive at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, the Lankaster-Harding Archive at the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, the Jaussen and Savignac Archive at the Ecole Biblique, Jerusalem, the Horsfield Archive at University College London, the Laboratory of Archaeology at the University of Granada, Spain, and the Aerial Photographic Archive for Archaeology in the Middle East at the University of Western Australia. The project provides a unique opportunity to study the context of the building, both in terms of its position in the Jordanian steppe and in relation to other associated structures and landscapes and gardens. A residential complex of this importance would not have been isolated and would have included planned gardens, protective walls, wells, and other services necessary for the comfort and survival of the inhabitants and visitors. The project is in its early stages but much has already been accomplished. The investigations currently underway will surely be catalytic and result in more conservation and research activities in the years to come.
In the fifteen years of World Monuments
Britain’s work, the range and quality of
its advocacy and conservation work has
proved to be transformative. Britain’s
historic buildings are perhaps the most
keenly guarded in the world, but our
history is rich and dense, whilst the
pattern of ownership and responsibility
is complex. There remains a need for
independent charitable organisations to
act with and between the various stat-
utory bodies and custodians of our great
architecture.

As a trustee of WMF Britain for 16
years I was mindful that buildings are,
after all, not just to look upon and enjoy
from afar as they depend on people—
we created them and they require our
ongoing active care and usage for their
survival. Our family foundation con-
tributed to the repair of John Cheere’s
statuary at Queluz Palace; the restoration
of the magnificent, much-altered church
of St George’s Bloomsbury; to the conser-
vation of Canterbury Cathedral’s precious
stained glass, and pledged a grant to
the public presentation of Stowe House,
the largest of all WMF’s projects to date. When the ‘before and after’ photographs
are compared, and the faces of enraptured
visitors and audiences are lit up, it is clear
that the legacy of our interventions will
last for many generations.
Over the winter, the Edinburgh Graveyards Project completed its study of what makes the five historic graveyards in the heart of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site so very special, and how this potential might be fully realised in light of the major problems faced by their current management and use. Research carried out by Thomas Ashley as part of the WMF Yale Scholarship 2011 contributed to an appreciation of these sites and used accounts of the graveyards found in historic guidebooks to explore the physical and social relationships between the sites and their city setting. A scoping report proposes a strategy for the sites’ future management, and this draws heavily from the practical experiences of community groups from across the UK who have successfully transformed their local graveyards into urban green oases, tranquil spaces and family-friendly places for learning and leisure.

Project outreach completed during the Autumn 2011 offers encouraging signs for future efforts to draw together support for implementing the scoping report’s recommendations. In particular, a positive start has been made in reaching people with an interest in becoming ‘friends’ of Edinburgh’s graveyards and getting more practically involved protecting and promoting these rich cultural landscapes. The project is currently working with local community volunteers to establish a ‘Friends of’ group at Calton New Burial Ground.

WMF produced leaflet ‘Find Hidden Treasures in five of Edinburgh’s World Heritage Site Graveyards’, which invited the public to explore these wonderful places and especially those graveyards which might be less well-known, was well received and electronic copies are available on the Edinburgh World Heritage website www.ewht.org.uk.
Carlisle Memorial Methodist Church in Belfast (1872-75) was Watch Listed in 2010. Empty for almost 30 years, it has suffered massive degradation and decay. The Belfast Buildings Preservation Trust acquired Carlisle Memorial in April 2011 and a subsequent structural survey, part funded by WMF Britain, underlined that the building’s future is under serious threat. Following an intensive programme of advocacy in Autumn 2011, BBPT is hopeful of securing £400,000 from the Northern Ireland Executive to undertake emergency protection measures in the first quarter of 2012.

BBPT’s long-term intention is to phase the restoration work at Carlisle Memorial. Phase 1, costing £3.3 million, will re-roof the building and return it to limited public use as an indoor activity centre for young people. A second phase, costing £12–£13 million, will aim to capitalise on a BBPT led engagement with the local communities to help realise a centre for enterprise and social innovation.

The church requires substantial investment before its full potential can be realised.

Inclusion on the WMF 2010 Watch List marked a turning point in the declining fortunes of Sheerness Dockyard. Suddenly, this long-neglected enclave of late-Georgian naval architecture, in a little known part of north Kent, found itself in the national spotlight. Galvanised by the recognition, local and national heritage groups, supported by the council, fought off a damaging redevelopment scheme for the former officers’ residential quarter (pictured). The owner of this 4 acre site was then persuaded to sell to the Spitalfields Historic Buildings Trust which had raised the capital from individual investors, assisted by a loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund. Now, after nearly 50 years of decline, the 11 listed buildings on the site are under restoration as single homes. The next challenge is the Grade II* listed Dockyard Church, currently a forlorn ruin. WMF, together with English Heritage, have funded a feasibility study looking into viable uses for the church, including as a venue for displaying Rennie’s beautiful (and vast) 1820s model of the dockyard. The council is now pursuing the compulsory purchase of the building, with the Spitalfields Trust lined up to take it on. Although tremendous progress has been made in a very short time there is no room for complacency - other historic buildings in the dockyard continue to decay and a scheme for a new wind turbine manufacturing facility threatens the Grade II* listed Mast House.
STUDY DAY SERIES 2012

Supporters enjoy priority, everyone is welcome

Medieval Coventry

Cathedral Quarter, Coventry
Tuesday 20 March, 10.30am-4pm

The ruins of St Michael’s Cathedral Coventry are a uniquely powerful reminder of the effects of war. They also happen to be the remains of England’s largest medieval parish church from which an astonishing collection of stained glass was removed a year prior to the city’s bombing. This study day examines the imaginative WMF Britain project to conserve and display the glass within the context of the much-overlooked and quite magnificent buildings of medieval Coventry.

Members £55
Non-members £65

Cathedral ruins, Coventry

Stowe House and Landscape Gardens

Review of the restoration

Stowe House, Buckinghamshire
Tuesday 3 July, 10.30am-4pm

Stowe House is nearing the end of a £20 million restoration project. The focus of Summer 2012 is the Paul Mellon Estate/WMF-funded conservation of the eighteenth-century Music Room, with a complete array of elegant and amusing Pompeian mural paintings by Vincenzo Valdre. This day combines glorious landscape with art-historical richness and conservation expertise in the house. Refreshments are accompanied by eighteenth-century music.

Members £55
Non-members £65
Stained Glass
A symposium and
tour of Strawberry Hill
Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham
Thursday 10 May, 10am-4pm
WMF Britain has helped
to conserve stained and
painted glass spanning a
millennium. Today, leading
figures explain the glass art of
three major sites: the c. 1200
panels from the Corona of
Canterbury Cathedral, where
Becket’s skull was venerated;
St Michael’s Coventry’s early
fifteenth-century work of
John Thornton, master of York
Minster’s East Window; and
Strawberry Hill itself with
Walpole’s eclectic assemblage
of Netherlandish glass.
A tour follows lunch.
Members £60
Non-members £70

Coventry Cathedral
An Outstanding British
Design, 50 Years On
Victoria and Albert Museum, Kensington
Wednesday 25 April, 8.45am-12.15pm
The exceptionally dynamic
arts of Coventry Cathedral
enjoy a strong presence in the
V&A’s Spring 2012 exhibition
‘British Design 1948-2012:
Innovation in the Modern
Age’. The new cathedral cel-
brates its Golden Jubilee this
year, coincident with World
Monuments Fund Britain’s
project to preserve the ruins
and conserve and display its
magnificent stained glass.
WMF Britain and The Twen-
tieth Century Society have
partnered to arrange a study
morning at the V&A on 25
April. A private view of the
exhibition with curator Ghis-
laine Wood will be followed
by papers from leading histo-
rians and commentators on
modern design.

Member
WMFB, c20th Society Members £45
Non-members £55

On average, people who
leave legacies to charity
live three to four years
longer than those who
don’t include a charity
in their wills.”
Smee and Ford

If you are considering making a
bequest to World Monuments Fund
Britain, our Finance Director or those
in development would be pleased to
discuss this with you.

Please email enquiries@wmf.org.uk
or call +44 (0) 20 7251 8142 to request
a leaflet or more information.
ABOUT WORLD MONUMENTS FUND BRITAIN

World Monuments Fund Britain is a leading charity which conserves vulnerable buildings in the UK and abroad. We build partnerships with people committed to protecting sites in their care and create long-term public value for the community, whilst preserving built heritage for future generations to enjoy.

We have worked in the UK since 1995 and raised in excess of £18m to safeguard threatened architecture. But our impact goes far beyond this thanks to the biennial World Monuments Watch. The Watch draws attention to important historic buildings across the world which are facing a variety of challenges and have an uncertain future.

Today, as industrialised development, more extreme weather and a poor economy continue to threaten fragile historic sites, the work of World Monuments Fund Britain is more vital than ever.

You can help us build on our past successes by joining us as a Supporter.

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A SUPPORTER?

Like us, you love old buildings but you’re concerned that some still don’t receive the help they need. World Monuments Fund Britain stands up for these important, and sometimes forgotten, buildings and gives them a better future. If we didn’t have support from people like you we’d be less able to help.

WE DO MORE THAN JUST RESTORE OLD BUILDINGS

We believe that our distinctive architecture is a national asset, so it’s important that communities are able to benefit from their restoration. When we get involved with new projects we make sure visitor centres, charitable partnerships and on-site training programmes are built into the plans right from the start. Every penny you give helps to secure the future of historic buildings for everyone’s enjoyment.

HOW WE THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US

- Behind-the-scenes access
- Unique opportunities for learning
- Meet like-minded people

TO FIND OUT MORE GO TO WWW.WMF.ORG.UK/INVOLVED
OR CALL US ON +44 (0)20 7251 8142