monumentum

special edition
winter 2006

WORLD
MONUMENTS
FUND *in Britain*

WMF rides through Bloomsbury

Following a £9.2 million restoration, WMF celebrates the opening of Hawksmoor's masterpiece of eighteenth century architecture in this special edition of Monumentum.

Left
Servive of Thanksgiving, showing the communion plate originally given to the church by the Duke of Bedford and now in the British Museum
Right
Mrs Elbrun Kimmelman and Mrs Theresa Sackler

The restoration of St George's, Bloomsbury was marked by a magnificent five-day celebration of dinners, services, concerts and site visits that culminated in a Service of Thanksgiving lead by the Bishop of London.

In attendence were the American Ambassador Mr Robert Tuttle, HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO, WMF's International Council, UK Trustees and many colleagues from our New York office. The programme, designed for WMF's International Council, took a distinguished group round the country and included many of WMF's British past and present projects. The five day visit ran as follows:

Wednesday 4th October
am Press Conference at St George's
pm Dinner with Mrs Theresa Sackler, WMF in Britain Trustee

Thursday 5th October
am Service of Thanksgiving at St George's
pm Black-tie dinner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea sponsored by Tiffany & Co.

Friday 6th October
am Visit to Strawberry Hill and Kew Gardens
pm Gala Concert at St. George's by the Orchestra for the Age of Enlightenment, sponsored by Withers LLP and Brewin Dolphin Securities. Dinner at the Garrick Club, hosted by John Baskett

Saturday 7th October
Visit to Stowe House followed by a farewell dinner and stay at Hartwell House Hotel

St George's, Bloomsbury is now open:
Mon-Fri 1pm-2pm
Sat 11.30am-5pm
Sun 11.30am-6pm

The main Sunday service is at 10.30am with guided tours at 3pm and a concert later in the day at 4pm. The carol service, with choir, is at 6pm on Sunday 17th December. The parish welcomes everyone to all these events.

www.stgeorgesbloomsbury.org.uk

'… a masterpiece of absurdist architecture… It is good to see a work of one of Britain's greatest architects returning closer to his intentions. Something half-buried under alteration and decay has been exhumed, and you can sense better than at any time for nearly three centuries the change in the rhythm of time, from the pace of the street to the one that refers to antiquity – it is one of the church's most powerful effects.'

Rowan Moore, The Evening Standard

'St George's is like a gem, and in its restored state it is a masterpiece. Tim Crawley's replacements are a lion and unicorn of robust design, the sort of sculpture that would have made Hawksmoor's heart jump with joy.'

Alistair McAlpine, World of Interiors Magazine

The galloping Anglophile

A joint restoration project between the UK and USA benefits London

On the 5th October an American and a British flag were parted to reveal a new plaque to the 'galloping Anglophile' Paul Mellon, whose estate contributed £5.4 million to the restoration of St George's. The Service of Thanksgiving marked an indefatigable high point in the life of this forgotten Hawksmoor masterpiece.

The church, originally part of Queen Anne's 1711 act to build fifty new churches, was on the brink of closure with severe structural problems and water leaking through the roof. No repairs had taken place there for over 100 years and the exterior was grimy and unwelcoming.

Today, following WMF's £9.2 million restoration, with help from the HLF and many other donors, the church is once again Hawksmoor's 'temple of light'. Clean architectural lines, clear glass windows, and the altar moved back to the eastern apse make sense of the architect's original design. Cleared of clutter and the gaudy 1950's paint scheme, the plain stone walls speak for themselves. Most striking is the rebirth of the 'lions and unicorns' – four ten-foot heraldic beats chasing each other up Hawksmoor's eccentric spire, recreated by sculptor Tim Crawley. In fact the sculptures have just won a Natural Stone Award from the Stone Federation for Craftsmanship. Topped by George I, the spire features in an eighteenth century rhyme:

'When Henry VIII left the Pope in the lurch
The Protestants made him head of the Church
But George's good subjects, the Bloomsbury people
Instead of the Church made him head of the steeple.'

The gilded copper horns of the unicorns now catch the sun and are visible from all sides of New Oxford Street.

On the 5th October, a packed church witnessed the occasion and listened to stirring words from Bishop of London, while Duncan Robinson gave some insight into Mr Mellon's life. The Service of Thanksgiving, followed by Eucharist in the evening, and a concert by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment the following day saw the church continuing in a period of renewed activity. A delegation from America, including International Council members and US Trustees attended the events at St George's. By the weekend, the usual congregation on Sunday had swelled and now many more visitors are coming into the church from the surrounding area. The Bishop reminded us that "churches should not be club houses for small groups… but be opened up still to wider use, and to serve their whole communities."

St George's is certainly a church now doing that. ■

St. George's has just won the Georgian Group's 2006 Architectural Award for Restoration of a Georgian Church and is nominated for a Natural Stone Award for the Lions and Unicorns.

Thursday 5th October, 11am

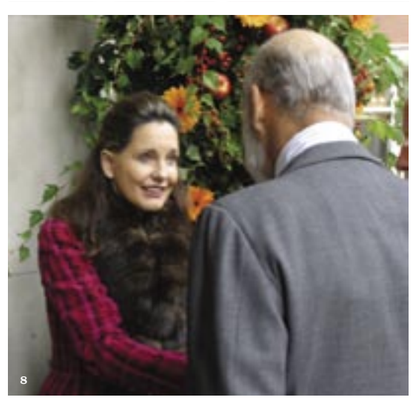
Thanksgiving Service

Service of Thanksgiving to mark the restoration of the church in the presence of HRH Prince Michael of Kent. Presided over by Rt Rev Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London and Robert Tuttle, the US Ambassador to Great Britain.

1 The Mayor of Camden, Councillor Jill Fraser with The Bishop of London, The Rt. Hon Rt. Revd Richard Chartres
2 Ms Bonnie Burnham with the Bishop of London
3 Mrs Rosetta Miller and Mr Will Black
4 Mr Frederick Terry and Mrs Barbara Terry, Dr Marilyn Perry and Ms Bonnie Burnham
5 The Mayor of Camden, The Bishop of London and HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO

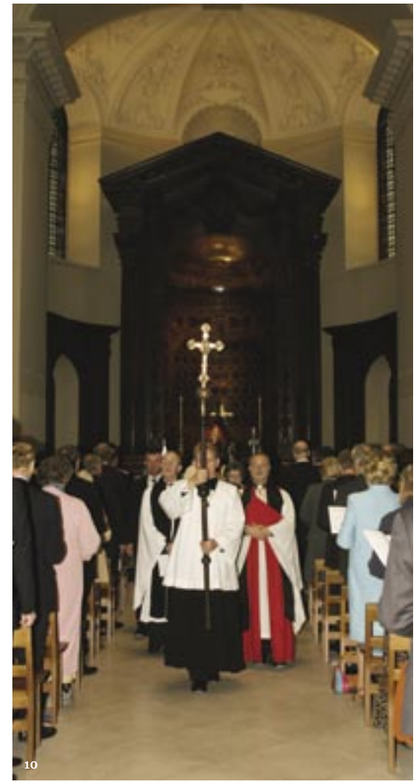
'The Bishop of London wrote in the Service sheet for the celebratory service on October 5th – that the church had been 're-pristinated'. It's a great word because it means both renewal and going back to the original inspiration. This is undoubtedly what has been achieved at St George's and the reprisitinating effect will spread – more people are coming to the church; it is filled with light; music sounds wonderful and prayers and praises are inspired by the architecture. St George's is one of London's finest buildings and to see the joy with which the lions and unicorns leapt back to grasp the staggering steeple reinforces the rightness of the restoration.'

Colin Amery, WMF in Britain Director

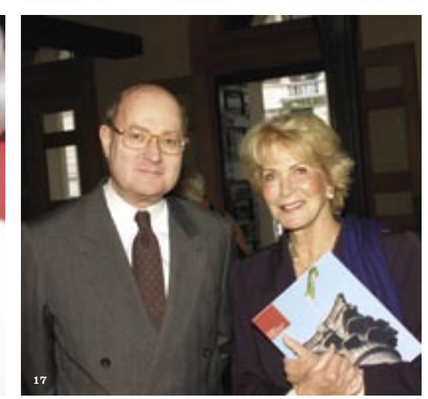


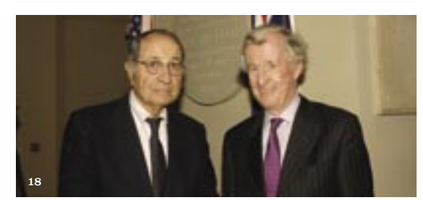
'The first Saturday after the opening some 450 people came to see the church. Since the restoration overseen by WMF, the congregations have increased, our Sunday music programme has begun and interest has swelled from the local community. Particularly gratifying is that St. George's is now back at the heart of Bloomsbury as a major symbol of regeneration. The congregation and diocese are deeply grateful for the Mellon gift and all that has followed. The restoration began at a time of great difficulty for the church and all concerned hoped this would be more than simply a restoration of a building – how true this has been.'

Reverend Perry Butler, The Rector of St George's



6 Lord Norwich greets Prince Michael of Kent
7 Mrs Maria Tuttle and Ambassador Robert Tuttle are introduced by Lord Norwich to Prince Michael of Kent
8 Mrs Barbara Terry meets the Prince
9 The Bishop of London and Rev Perry Butler sprinkle holy water
10 Mr Julian Sharpe leads to the Procession to the end of the church to unveil the plaques
11-13 HRH Prince Michael of Kent unveils the plaque to the major donors of St. George's
14 Prince Michael and the American Ambassador to the UK unveil the plaque to the late Paul Mellon
15 Mr Duncan Robinson delivers his tribute to Paul Mellon
16 Mrs Maria Tuttle and the Bishop of London
17 Mr Peter Kimmelman and Mrs Robin Hambro
18 Mr Peter Sichel and Mr Frederick Terry
19 The Bishop of London, Revd Perry Butler and Prince Michael of Kent





Wednesday 4th October, 10-11.30am

Press Conference

Journalists, photographers, and representatives from other heritaeg bodies attended the conference which was filmed for BBC News, ITV's London Tonight and Channel 4 News.

1 Mr Colin Kerr discusses the restoration of St George's
2 The keynote speakers at the Press Conference (from left): Mr Tim Crawley (sculptor of the 'Lions and Unicorns'), Mr Colin Kerr (Main Project Architect), Ms Bonnie Burnham (WMF President), Mr Colin Amery (WMF in Britain Director) and Mr Peter Inskip (Architect, North and South Gallery)
3 Ms Bonnie Burnham is interviewed by ITV's 'London Tonight'
4 Mr Riccardo Salmona and Mr Tim Crawley

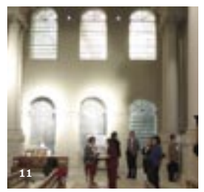
'... the restored St. George's is almost entirely free of funereal gloom. The interior is gloriously light and airy, and the outside, exfoliated of a few centuries of grime, is bright and clean.'

Steve Rose, The Guardian

'The Restoration of St George's, Bloomsbury also restores Hawksmoor's name... and what a tower! There's none like it anywhere in the world. No, nobody in Britain has ever made architecture like Nicholas Hawksmoor. The church is re-opened after a magnificent and mercifully 'still rough around the edges' restoration.'

Tom Dyckhoff, The Times

5 News crews inside the church
6 Revd Perry Butler
7 Mr Colin Amery is interviewed by the BBC
8 Representatives from the advertising agency McCann Erikson, based nearby, inspect the banners
9 Mrs Carole Patey and Mr David Gundry
10 Mr Colin Kerr
11 Light floods the church
12 Mrs Carole Patey and Mr Riccardo Salmona



Friday 6th October, 7.45pm

Concert of Celebration

Held at St George's, Bloomsbury with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment performing music by Purcell, Vivaldi, Locke, and Geminiani. The acoustics at St George's were deemed perfect for this contemporary music to Hawksmoor's time.

1-3 The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
4 Mr Frederick and Mrs Barbara Terry
5 Mrs Elbrun Kimmelman
6 Cello played by Joseph Crouch
7 Mr Pedro Girao
8 Harpsicord played by Steven Devine

Concert sponsored by Withers LLP and Brewin Dolphin Securities

'Heritage-lobby good taste is much in evidence inside. The church used to be gaudily painted. Now, all is taken back to a presumed original state of calm, stone-coloured distemper and dark wood. More importantly the axis of the church has been turned back to Hawksmoor's original east-west layout. It feels good, and, unlike Spitalfields, it retains some rough edges, even in the new stone floor of the church.'

Hugh Pearman, The Sunday Times

'It is an unalloyed pleasure to look from Bloomsbury Way on its mighty portico, tower and steeple, without fearing, as before, for their future.'

'Honouring Hawksmoor' leader, The Daily Telegraph

Friday 6th October, 10.30am

Strawberry Hill

Tour of Strawberry Hill with Michael Snodin, Chairman of the Strawberry Hill Trust and Senior Research Fellow at the V & A and Anna Chalcraft ex BBC and author of several books on Strawberry Hill.

1 The group in front of Strawberry Hill
2 Prince Amyn Aga Khan and Mr Colin Amery
3 Dr. Marilyn Perry and Mrs Rosetta Miller
4 Ms Bonnie Burnham, Mr Bertrand du Vignaud de Villefort and Mr Michael Snodin
5 The Long Gallery

'Then, in the spring of 1747, an effeminate young man with a taste for luxury, lace collars and gossip bought a former coachman's house on forty acres of land in Twickenham on the River Thames – and set about building himself a villa which gravely complicated the prevailing sense of what a beautiful house might look like…'

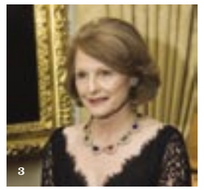
Alain de Botton 'The Architecture of Happiness'

Thursday 5th October, 7.30pm

Dinner with Tiffany & Co.

The Royal Hospital, Chelsea was founded by King Charles II in 1682 as a retreat for veterans of the regular army who had become unfit for duty, and was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Sponsoring the evening, Tiffany & Co. have worked previously with WMF on their Forbidden City project in China and have also supported ICON magazine.

1 Mrs Pirjo Gardiner, Mr Robert Gardiner and Mrs Karen Hambro
2 Ms Barbara Kovacs, HRH Prince Michael of Kent and Lord Norwich
3 Lady Judy Ridley of Liddesdale
4-5 The Royal Hospital, Chelsea
6 Dame Vivien Duffield and Dr Simon Thurley



A lavish dinner was followed by John Julius singing 'Diamonds are a girl's best friend', which wowed the distinguished crowd. Bouquets of autumnal flowers graced the apartments which features original portraits of Charles II and his long term mistress and the first actress to gain prominence, Nell Gwyn.

7 Ms Catherine Giangrande
8 Lord Norwich entertains
9 HRH Prince Michael of Kent
10 Mrs Rosetta Miller and Mr Pierre Valentin

Opening in 2007

Exhibition

The first photographs of St George's new Exhibition telling the story of the church, its architect and Bloomsbury. Housed in the undercroft it will open to the public in Spring 2007.

1 The renovated undercroft which now houses the exhibition and some office space
2 A scale model of one of the 'Bloomsbury Beasts'

'It will eventually cost more than £50 million to restore Stowe House, one of Britain's grandest buildings, to its 18th-century glory. The Marble Hall was the work of an Italian architect Giovanni Battista Bartoli and was designed and built between 1775 and 1778. The domed space is in fact elliptical and is surmounted by a frieze which shows a procession of triumphant soldiers in high relief returning home with the spoils.'

Colin Amery, WMF in Britain Director

Saturday 7th October

Tour of Stowe

Stowe House has rightly been described as the largest and most completely realised private neo-classical building in the world. On WMF's Watch List in 2002, WMF in Britain then contributed over £300,000 towards the restoration of the Marble Saloon, the elliptical hall inspired by the Pantheon in Rome

1 The East Colonnade
2 The South Front
3 Detail of the Marble Saloon's frieze
4 Driving round the park
5 The group at Stowe
6 The Marble Saloon

Programme of events 2007

Lecture

Stalin: the Gangster Years
Wednesday 17th October

Simon Sebag Montefiore, best-selling historian, discusses his new book on Stalin as a young man and what drove him to become the domineering tyrant that looms over the 20th Century. Stalin hid his past and many questions surround his early years. Was he illegitimate? Did he owe everything to his mother? Even as a child he was dangerous and charismatic. Simon Sebag Montefiore will answer these questions. His previous book *Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar* was the winner of the British Book Awards Book of the Year for history 2004.

7pm
Royal Geographical Society
Kensington Gore, SW7
£15/£10 WMF members & students

Christmas

Give a gift membership to friends and family

A gift membership package to WMF is the present that will improve your surroundings and make a difference to the world! A membership includes a copy of *A Decade of Monumental Achievements*, the history of WMF in Britain, plus a free ticket to Cambodia Film Preview on February 7th at the RGS. For more information or to purchase a gift membership, please contact Membership Officer Emily Luhmann on 020 7730 5344 or by email: emily@wmf.org.uk

Events

Film Preview

Churning the Sea of Time: A journey up the Mekong to Angkor
Wednesday 7th February

We travel by boat up the Mekong Delta through Vietnam into Cambodia, then up the Tonlé Sap River. The film provides a fascinating counterpoint between the struggles of modern Cambodia and the silent majesty of its iconic heritage. In Angkor, World Monuments Fund's John Stubbs and John Sanday describe their 15-year restoration of a city called 'the eighth wonder of the world'. *Directed by Les Guthman*

Introduction by Les Guthman, who's other expedition, adventure and environmental documentaries include *Farther than the Eye Can See*, *Messner* and *Into the Tsangpo Gorge*.

7pm
Royal Geographical Society,
Kensington Gore, SW7
£15/£10 WMF members & students

Travel

South India
15-24th February

This is truly a trip of a lifetime! Organised with the leading tour specialist, *The Ultimate Travel Company*, friends and members of the WMF have a rare chance to visit notable sites in the relatively unknown parts of southern India. Visit Hyderabad and tour the Residency built by James Achilles Kirkpatrick, the British Resident with the author William Dalrymple, as well as explore Bidar, Gulbarga and Bijapur with the eminent historian Dr Helen Philon, an expert on the religious and royal architecture of the early Bahmanis. Due to the popularity of India at this time of year, it is important to book this trip as soon as possible to secure hotels and flights.

For India trip information and itineraries please contact David Pettitt at *The Ultimate Travel Company* on +44 (0) 207 386 4646 or email: david@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk

The Ultimate Travel Company

St. Petersburg and Finland (optional)
13-17th September

The Empress and her Architects. See the work of the British Architects who worked under Catherine the Great. With Colin Amery and Alexei Leporc, Western European Art Expert and Dutch and Flemish Painting Curator at the State Hermitage Museum. Optional extension to see the Alvar Aalto library at Vyborg, a WMF Watch List site, as well as other archihtectural sites in Helsinki.

For St. Petersburg trip information please contact Emily Luhmann at WMF in Britain.

For further information and booking please contact:

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2 Grosvenor Gardens
London SW1W 0DH

Telephone: 020 7730 5344
(credit cards accepted)

Fax: 020 7730 5355

monumentum
Lector, si monumentum requiris, circumspice.
Sir Christopher Wren's tomb
in St Paul's Cathedral, London.

For further information & booking please contact:
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World Monuments Fund in Britain:
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Director – Colin Amery
Trustees – Mr Christopher Bodker, Mrs Charles Brocklebank, Sir David Davies, Dame Vivien Duffield, Mr Robert Gardiner, Mrs Rupert Hambro, The Lady King, The Baroness Rawlings, Mrs Mortimer Sackler, Mr James Sherwood, Sir Angus Stirling, Mr Peter Stormonth Darling, Dr Christopher Tadgell, Mr Max Ulfane, Mr Pierre Valentin

Charity number: 1043907

Cover image:
The Lions and Unicorns

Designed by Inaria, www.inaria-design.com

Photography by Charlotte Bromley-Davenport
www.charlotte-bromley-davenport.co.uk

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