

Newsletter

Building Limes Forum Ireland



Comments and articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the board or editor.

Building Limes Forum Ireland is a community of lime practitioners, specifiers, suppliers and producers of lime. The Forum exists to encourage expertise and understanding in the appropriate use of building limes, and education in the standards of production, preparation, application and aftercare. Building Limes Forum Ireland is connected and affiliated to Building Limes Forums across the world.

Editorial

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018. Unfortunately almost a year has flown by since the last issue, despite best intentions of a mid-year publication. So, as always, many thanks to the members who have taken the time to submit articles and make this issue possible. It is not always easy to find that time, or indeed the energy, to gather your thoughts and put pen to paper. However it is never a waste of your time to look back on your work with a critical eye, or even just record an interesting or testing project for the benefit of others, as one particular article will demonstrate. Calling to mind an American Vice President no less, we are reminded of the value of thorough surveying and of never underestimating the potential invasiveness of certain vegetation when dealing with masonry. Reference in another article to an ecologist talking about the impact of ivy and vegetation on masonry walls reiterates this. It also makes me believe the upcoming joint BLFI / SPAB Ireland workshop on 'soft capping' is most timely. We accept articles of all size and complexity throughout the year. As the aim of our forum is to encourage expertise and understanding in all things lime, what better way to do this than to learn from one another.

Oiseen Kelly



Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim - BLF Conference 2017

Training & Education Events

Here are details of some upcoming events which may be of interest. However, remember there are many other training and educational opportunities available throughout the country, all year round. (See back page for further information on some of these.) Please contact us if you know of any events that may benefit members or indeed proposals for training opportunities you think are needed.

Lime-Based Wet Dash / Harling Render CPD Workshop - Friday February 9th 2018

This day long practical workshop by Southgate Associates in association with the Heritage Council, will focus on lime render specifically wet dash / harled render. It will deal with the use of lime successfully in winter months when needs must. The course will be delivered by Damien Condon of Calx Restoration and Southgate Associates and will include information on specifications, methodologies and techniques. Equivalent to CPD 7 hrs
Location: Donnybrook House, Cork. Cost: €100.00 per person, places limited Bookings: **Ciara O'Flynn** 087 2543017 or ciara@chsa.ie



Stay in touch with us on @BLF_ie



BLFI Lime Mortar Workshops Mortar Mixes for our Built Heritage

Hosted by OPW the next workshop is on the February 21st in the OPW Depot, Athenry, led by practitioner and specifier Eoin Madigan (stonemason) & Lisa Edden (engineer.) See page 3 for more details.



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

SOUTHGATE
ASSOCIATES

Comment from the Chair

A whole year has gone by again! And guess what I'm 3 years in this seat which means that I will be vacating it very soon! We have had a busy three years and achieved some of the many things we planned and still need to work on others. We have a great team but because of some illness; time commitments and **retirement we've lost some key players and are looking** for fresh blood. So if you would like to be part of the team step up and make yourself known.

Hot mixed lime mortars were the big headline item at the start of my tenure and they are still there, but we hope **being furthered by government bodies instead of NGO's** – this is the only way forward. There is a Memorandum of Understanding for the (HMM) Hot Mixed Mortars Collaboration between Historic Environment Scotland; **Historic England; CADW (Welsh Government's historic environment service);** Heritage Council Ireland Office of Public Works Ireland Department of Communities Northern Ireland. We here in Ireland need to do all we can to promote this collaboration and thus reap the benefits.

The next meeting of many of the key instigators is in Wales 16th February and this seminar has proved so popular its venue has had to be changed once to increase the capacity and it is now sold out. Meanwhile **here we're trying to up the awareness and hopefully this year's Lime Slam will show an array of projects using** indigenous quicklime. As will the next OPW /BLFI workshop 21st February in Athenry and a masterclass / seminar / workshop we hope to hold 4th and 5th May.



Chris Pennock with his mixes and onlookers

Hot mix mortars were also a strong player at Nidaros **Cathedral Workshops, Trondheim at this year's Building** Limes Forum Conference. However the main theme I took from Trondheim, which is applicable to all mortars, **is Chris Pennock's adage – "It's the same as baking –** the list of ingredients is important but equally important is **how it's mixed and minded during the preparation as well as how it's cooked (read cured)"**

If we think carefully about this and how it applies to our mortars it not only tells us that it is a highly skilled non-



Nidelva River, Trondheim - BLF Conference 2017

prescriptive operation but that the Mason / Practitioner is key in this process and however many times the Specifiers write down the list of ingredients they are expecting to be in a mix and a notional idea of how it is mixed the process on site is critical to the successful outcome. Thus we must continue to put Specifiers and Practitioners in the same think tank for their learning and CPD and talk while we walk.

Before I go I must say a big thank-you to all of the Building Limes Forum Ireland Board and in particular to the three people who have stepped down over the last year:

Pat McAfee for his years of hard work providing training and above all patience to those learning;

Joe Kirwan for his always questions – come back Joe when time pressures resolve;

Manfredi Anello who we wish improving health to and to get better soon.

We welcome Eoin Madigan to the Board and we are hoping to welcome two more of you soon to make up the required twelve. If anyone is interested and would like some more information, please do get in touch with any of the current board members or email info@blfi.ie

Your current hard working board members are:

Lisa Edden	Chair
Grellan Rourke	Company Secretary
Una Ni Mhearain	Treasurer
Shane Nolan	Membership
Manfredi Anello	CPD / Training
Kevin Blackwood	Bursary
Helen Hossack	Northern Ireland
Oiseen Kelly	Events & Newsletter
Joe Kirwan	Technical & Standards
Chris McCollum	Northern Ireland
Paul Marlow	Northern Ireland
Eoin Madigan	Spab

Also	Eszter Nádas	Administrator
	James Powell	Webmaster

OPW & BLFI - Mortar mixes for our Built Heritage including Hot-mixed Lime Mortar & Earth Mortar

The next workshop in this series is being hosted by the OPW Athenry Depot on Wednesday 21st February 2018. This workshop will be of interest to those specifying or working with mortars for the repair of buildings. It will benefit the architect / mason making the transition into working on heritage structures and serve as an update for those already working in conservation but who may not have used hot-mixes and earth mortars. It will also be a forum for those wishing to share their understanding of pozzolans and other aids to carbonation, and how to test in the field.

To book a place see the BLFI website or email info@blfi.net

€100 for BLFI members / €160 for non-members (which buys BLFI membership for 2018)

Students €50 + €30 membership

Certification award on completion. RIAI CPD Approved



The BLF Conference & Gathering 2018

The 2018 Conference and Gathering will be held in Canterbury, England (early September) in association with Canterbury Cathedral. For more detail see: www.buildinglimesforum.org.uk/2018-conference

An online article worth a read

Why Roman concrete still stands strong while modern version decays

By Nicola Davis in the Guardian (Science) July 4th 2017

'The Roman recipe – a mix of volcanic ash, lime (calcium oxide), seawater and lumps of volcanic rock held together piers, breakwaters and harbours. Moreover, in contrast to modern materials, the ancient water-based structures became stronger over time. Scientists say this is the result of seawater reacting with the volcanic material in the cement and creating new minerals that reinforced the concrete.'

www.theguardian.com/science/2017

BLFI Bursaries 2014-2018

The application must have an educational nature, practical or theoretical, and must relate to the use of lime. For example it could be used to attend a specialist course, either short-term or long-term, be theoretical and/or practical. It could also be used to undertake a specialist internship or a practical experience master class, and so very flexible in remit. The result should lead to better qualification and/or experience; a better understanding in the use of lime in construction. It should be relevant to the **applicant's work or future direction.**

Bursary

Up to €2,000 will be available per annum for a period of 5 years from 2014. €10,000 will be set aside as a special fund so the bursary will be guaranteed for this period. It is important to demonstrate to the Charities Office that the BLFI have a commitment to relevant specialist education in the broad sense, not just on a year-to-year basis. There will be two bursaries of €1,000 each although the Selection Committee reserves the right in a special case to award one bursary of €2,000. The process will be reviewed by the BLFI Committee after a 3-year period. If applications are not compliant with the terms of the bursary, it may not be awarded in a particular year. In such cases any monies will go back into the fund for future bursaries.

Who can apply?

All members of the BLFI with at least 2 years' membership. In the 5-year period a bursary cannot be awarded more than once to the same person.

What does it cover?

The bursary must be used to cover course fees / internship costs, travel & accommodation.

Timescale for application

Application by 1st April of the relevant year. A decision by the Selection Committee will be made by the 30th April. The Selection Committee will be made up of the full BLFI Committee and 2 externs.

Application Submission

Successful applicants must submit a presentation, report, organise a demonstration or as otherwise agreed upon completion of the proposal for which the bursary is awarded.

Application Form

There is no application form as such. Please make a written application detailing the proposal with a one page CV including contact details. Canvassing the Selection Committee with disqualify any application. info@blfi.net

A Cautionary Tale of Unknown Unknowns

By Tom Pollard



When I go through the photos of one particular job from 2017 I am reminded of the famous, somewhat confusing and much ridiculed quote by Donald Rumsfeld VP of the USA during the Bush era, the “Known Unknowns” speech.



Reports that say that something hasn't happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns — the ones we don't know we don't know. And if one looks throughout the history of our country and other free countries, it is the latter category that tend to be the difficult ones. Donald Rumsfeld, 2002

Perhaps Rumsfeld was correct, perhaps his speech writer was a retired conservation mason. I think he was talking sense and as a cautionary tale I would like to apply his theory in relation to understanding and surveying a building in need of major repair and the pitfalls therein.

The last year kept me busy with some wonderful structures and their repairs, with the exception of one contract all projects involved earth mortars with lime inclusions. I love these mortars, they are a challenge and

choosing or designing a replacement mortar is so interesting. It always reveals new information and adds to the everyday learning available when involved with old structures. In the case of an old coach house c1780 we took on last summer there was a fine limestone building, long without its roof and heavily clad in vegetation. A type of box shrub/hedging was along the wall plate which was shedding water whilst tying the structure together. Surely it couldn't be as invasive as ivy? This dreaded unknown unknown became part of my summer.

The box shrub had the deepest penetrating roots I have ever encountered. The building had the remains of a heavy coat of cement plaster with a pebble dash finish. While surveying the structure for condition and subsequent method statement and price I had only a step ladder, hammer and plugging chisel. Had I brought a bay of scaffold I would have had a more accurate knowledge of the extent of structural damage due to root penetration, mortar and masonry damage due to lodged water and frost.

On removing a very loose cement render, perished lime mortar pointing was an obvious repair need. Behind this pointing the earth and lime core was sturdy in the lower areas inspected and poor as the inspection carried on upwards. Perhaps I met the good areas of remaining mortar as I inspected the upper floor but I missed some cavities and heavy root stems that if found would have given me the warning that more than perhaps 50 to 80mm of the wall plate level would have to be removed, cleaned out and rebuilt.

Quote accepted, timeline for works with snags agreed and a very practical and understanding client all combined to give me the confidence that this project **would be enjoyed and wrapped up and then I'd be on to the next job. I didn't know at that stage that there would be no moving on before the unknowns became known!**

The earth mortar had suited the box shrub. The lime rich earth was heaven to this deep rooted variety, it's roots migrated for over 1.5M down into the walls core, not stringy and frail but sticklike and strong. The younger soft roots helped separate the cement render, aiding the removal, but as the render held on so well an insulating layer of fine roots grew between render and masonry and wove through every joint and enveloped the structure behind this render. This was a horror to find when removing large slabs of loose render.

Mortar had become root, stone had been shattered and the first floor had to be taken down and rebuilt. Never before had I read a build so wrong. Mistakes will happen and you can learn from them and maybe share the experience to help others avoid the same but with all my accumulated experience to date I had been slapped by a now known unknown unknown and now I know all about unknowns!

Thankfully we had a fantastic summer in Tipperary and the weather did not cost us one day, the building itself being a coach house was not huge and we had ample stone for the rebuild, so yes it cost me but not so I would have to lose my shirt. I won't let it happen again.

My caution to anyone reading this would be when you see ivy worry but when you see box take a full day and climb all over that building and remember those roots.

BLFI Guidance Note (Extract)



Treatment of large + stubborn embedded roots

- **Drill all large roots**
 - **Insert copper piping**
 - **Fill pipe with a very strong solution of a specialist root killer**
 - **Tape over the pipe aperture to prevent evaporation**
- Return at intervals to top up reservoirs as required

Reference: Lisa Edden, BLFI & HC: Town Walls Maintenance Course, Drimnagh Castle, 14/06/2012

Tuesday 1st May 2012 Building Limes Forum Ireland

Heritage Council Funding Options

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



To Mark the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) in 2018, the Heritage Council is focusing their Community Heritage Grant Scheme on the theme **'Make a Connection' to encourage communities throughout Ireland to build heritage connections that will last long beyond the year.** The scheme aims to:

- **promote appreciation and enjoyment of heritage, to make a lasting difference to heritage, people and communities,**
- **promote a bottom up approach to heritage management, and**
- **reach out to new audiences by telling heritage stories in innovative ways to stimulate public interest and engagement.**

The scheme is open to:

- **not-for-profit voluntary and community groups, and**
- **heritage-related non-governmental organisations (NGOs).**

Applications from other organisations or individuals will not be accepted.

You must apply online via the online grants system by: Friday 9th February 2018 at 5pm.



Update:
SPAB Ireland
by
Triona Byrne

Soft capping carried out at a SPAB working party in Greatham Old Church, Hampshire, UK



In 2017, a number of BLFI members who had recently completed scholarships/fellowships with the Society of Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) in the UK joined forces to establish an Irish branch of the SPAB. The SPAB was set up by William Morris in 1877 in protest at the heavy-handed Victorian restoration of buildings that was occurring at the time. Today, the SPAB campaigns for conservative building repair, runs lectures, workshops and training programmes on building conservation, and provides advice to those with conservation queries.

Since their inauguration last year, the Irish branch of the SPAB had a very successful year, with standout events including a workshop in conjunction with the BLFI at Russborough Lime Kiln, a Working Party in Derry during Heritage Week and a number of social events for building conservation enthusiasts.

For 2018, we have many more exciting plans in place. We hope to run a 'Caring for Ruins' workshop in conjunction with the BLFI, exploring alternative ways to cap masonry ruins, namely using a soft capping. Extensive research has been carried out by Historic England regarding the use of a soft grass cap on masonry ruins, as an alternative to a hard stone or mortar capping system. The research indicates that soft capping is more beneficial to certain masonry ruins, due to the effective protection it provides from thermal fluctuations and freeze-thaw. It also appears to reduce short-term moisture fluctuations within walls and water running down the face, both of which can encourage

stone deterioration (a report is available to download for free online, search for 'Historic England soft capping'). However, further research is being carried out to clarify the impact of soft capping on moisture levels within the underlying stonework, and to provide longer term monitoring of the field trials that were carried out.

We also hope to run another Working Party in 2018, as our first one was such a success. A Working Party is exactly what its name suggests - volunteers spend a few days working on an old building or structure in need of repair, under the guidance of experienced craftspeople, followed up with social events in the evenings. It is a fantastic way for people to get hands-on experience of practical building conservation in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. In 2017, we decamped to Derry to repair a Victorian garden boundary wall, using hot-mixed lime mortars under the guidance of SPAB Fellow Eoin Madigan. There were over 40 participants over 4 days, who learned how to correctly rake out and prepare masonry joints for re-pointing, how to mix and use hot-mixed lime mortar and how to carry out the necessary aftercare. There were talks from an ecologist on the impact of ivy and vegetation on masonry walls, as well as informative talks on the lime cycle and the use of lime in general. In the evenings, we had barbeques, walking tours and a tapas evening, where volunteers were able to unwind and have the craic after a day of re-pointing cracks. Participants feedback was overwhelmingly positive so we are busy planning a similar event for 2018.

Another initiative that SPAB Ireland began in 2017 was Irish Maintenance Week, running from November 23rd - 27th. Maintenance Week aims to act as a gentle reminder to anyone who cares for a property, new or old, to identify minor problems and potential issues that might need attention before winter sets in. It has been run by the SPAB in the UK for many years now and it is an important issue that needs to be discussed more in Ireland too. Leaky gutters, blocked drains, slipped tiles and mystery patches of damp can present as minor **issues and are easy to ignore, but they won't rectify themselves**, often leading to costly repairs for homeowners. We produced a series of short videos titled **'Building Maintenance 101'**, giving basic maintenance advice to property owners. We also launched an online social media campaign to promote the issue of maintenance. We aim to run Irish Maintenance Week again in 2018, to continue to spread awareness of the importance of building maintenance.

Two of our successful social events in 2017 included a table quiz to raise money for our Working Party and a pub night in the Stags Head, Dublin, with a talk by

Angela Rolfe on her experience as Head of Property Maintenance Services with the OPW. We hope to have more of these in 2018, with more occasions to visit the many historic pubs of Dublin to enjoy the architecture whilst enjoying a pint!

The main aims of SPAB Ireland are to protect our built heritage and promote traditional crafts. We hope to continue to pursue these ambitions in 2018 and beyond.

We are particularly interested in Ireland's vernacular architecture and hope to be able to protect this legacy in the future, through campaigning, educating and raising awareness of the importance of these beautiful relics of our cultural and built heritage. As Oliver Wilson, SPAB Scholar, said; **"A derelict cottage is as important as a painting hanging in the National Gallery"**.

We are always open to ideas and collaborations, and we are always looking for enthusiastic committee members! For more information or to join our mailing list, email: spabireland@gmail.com or get us on social media @spabireland.



Volunteers re-pointing a garden wall during the 2018 Working Party in Derry



Update:
Earth Building UK and Ireland
(EBUKI)

Clayfest 2018
24 – 29 September 2018
Irish National Heritage Park
Hosted by
Earth Building UK and Ireland
(EBUKI)



Earth Building UK and Ireland (EBUKI) is a transnational organisation which fosters earth building in all its diversity. We aim to increase understanding and awareness of earth, so that our built heritage can be appropriately and sensitively conserved and so that this material, with its impeccable environmentally-friendly credentials, can be explored for contemporary sustainable construction projects.

EBUKI has run an annual conference, followed by a day of tours to local and regional earth buildings, since 2009. However, we soon realised that many earth building practitioners and enthusiasts are a much more hands-on **lot and don't want to sit in a hall all day watching slide-shows**. They want to get mucky! And so Clayfest was born.

Since 2015, this 6-day International Festival of Earthen Architecture has travelled to Perthshire, Cumbria and Lincoln. In 2018 Clayfest is coming across the water for the first time and will be hosted in the Irish National Heritage Park, Co. Wexford, from 24th to 29th September.

It will be the biggest Clayfest yet, with 9 hands-on workshops running side by side. We have a mix of local and international trainers. The home team is represented by Muintir na Coille, Mud and Wood and the Hollies, amongst others. This is also a chance to get up close and personal with some of the biggest names on the global natural building stage, such as architect, author, researcher and activist, Tom Woolley and authors, straw bale and earth building legends, Bill and Athena Steen.

Clayfest workshops run from Monday to Thursday. It is up to you whether you want to stick with one topic and progress every day, or start afresh each morning and try

out a new technique. As all of the workshops are held side by side, there is always an opportunity to pick up some tips from your neighbours. It is one of the most inspirational and educational aspects of Clayfest and there is always a great buzz.



Clayfest, hands-on workshops

In the past, we have built some pretty amazing structures, but they have had to be dismantled at the end of the event. This time, we are delighted that our hosts have agreed to keep our walls, pavilions and sculptures. So everyone who visits the Irish National Heritage Park will be able to enjoy the fruits of your labour.

The workshops are as follows:

Mudwall Repair	Colin Ritchie and Féile Butler (me), Mud and Wood
Wattle and Daub	Niall Miller and Joe Gowran, Muintir na Coille
Earth Mortar & Stone	Brian Tobin, Wexford Mud Mason
Clay Plasters	Bill and Athena Steen, The Canelo Project, U.S.A.
Clay Hemp	Tom Woolley, author of <i>Natural Building Materials</i> , Northern Ireland
Earth Block & Natural Materials	Becky Little, RebEarth and Tom Morton, Arc Architects, Scotland
Turf	Daniël Postma, ArchaeoBuild, Netherlands
Sewn-Reed Anna & Plaster	Altemir, Base-A, Spain
Cob & Found Objects	Louise Halestrap and Lizzie Wynn, Centre of Alternative Technology, Wales

We are also introducing the concept of the Irish *meitheal* to Clayfest this year. Thomas and Ulrike Riedmuller from the Hollies will lead a drop-in, hands-on work party to build a sculptural cob bench. This will be ideally suited to the curious but not yet committed. For a truly immersive experience, camping will be provided at the Irish National Heritage Park. We have made lifelong friends from all over the world thanks to late nights chatting by campfires **a stone's throw from our day's work.**

The conference will be held on Friday, 28th September. The theme for this year is *The Secret Life of Earth*. This could relate to our hidden earth-built heritage or to those barefoot builders who experiment and push boundaries under the radar. It could relate to the remarkable reactions that occur between water and clay at a molecular level. We are still finalising our speaker list, so if you have a presentation idea that you would like to submit, we would love to hear from you at feile@ebuki.co.



Clayfest, lectures

With earth builders, it never is all work and no play. The **Mud Hooley will be hosted in the Heritage Park's** Crannóg on Friday night. There will be a dinner and céilí, So swap your wellies for your dancing shoes and join in the craic.

The final day of Clayfest will be tours to earthen buildings in and around Co. Wexford. We are still looking for more homeowners who may wish to add their property to the list. If you own such a building, or know someone who does, please let us know at feile@ebuki.co.

There is obviously a strong heritage component to Clayfest and during Heritage Week, EBUKI will be coordinating a nationwide series of talks, tours, workshops and slideshows. The theme this year is *Sharing Stories*. Our ambition is to have as many points of contact as possible all around the country, because not only do we want to share our stories of earth building, we want to try to collect stories from our local communities too. If you think you could spare an hour, a morning, an evening or a day to be part of this initiative, and have something to share that relates to earth building, please contact feile@ebuki.co to get involved.

See you at Clayfest 2018!

For more information, check out <http://ebuki.co/event-clayfest-2018.htm>.



Drogheda Walking Tour 2017

Our tour of Drogheda on Saturday June 10th was kindly hosted by the Louth County Council Conservation Officer, Angela Dullaghan, the OPW, local architects Emmet Humphries and Jacqueline Pope, with insightful contributions by local historian Nick Reilly. Practitioners Ger Edwards and Piotr Jonczyk were also present to answer technical questions on two projects visited, both recent repair works but quite different in scope and detail. Ger showed us consolidation and repointing of substantial masonry ruin walls at the Abbey of St. Mary d'Urso. **Piotr and Jacqueline talked us through façade repairs at a red brick building on North Quay.** With input from many others within the group along the way, we completed our day with architect Manfredi Anello who showed us a hidden new-build lime example tucked away in the grounds of Drogheda Hospital.

Our visit coincided with the Drogheda Maritime Festival so we experienced this wonderful medieval town at its best, bustling and busy on what turned out, after a wet morning, to be a fine dry day on the banks of the Boyne. The tour commenced to the delight of the local **participants with access to St. Laurence's Gate, a first for many of them.** Saint Laurence's Gate, a barbican, was built in the 13th century as part of the walled fortifications of the medieval town. It is widely regarded as one of the finest of its kind in Europe. It consists of two tall circular towers, connected together by a wall with an archway, through which there is a steady flow of traffic accessing the main thoroughfare of the town. On safely dodging the traffic we entered the tower and soon made our way to the top from where we were treated to a fantastic vista over the town and its environs. The Georgian terraces and River Boyne lay to the west, the port and Boyne Valley Railway Viaduct (c1855) to the east and Mount St Oliver and the Martello Tower (1808) of Millmount Fort to the south. Lisa Edden was on hand to talk us through the many structural issues, previous interventions and recent repairs carried out; while our local hosts provided the historic context to the tower and its setting. A hard act to follow but Drogheda proved to be full of more wonderful surprises.

As we headed north turning onto William St. we discussed some render repairs on the façade of a large Georgian townhouse, while the modernists among us spotted a Michael Scott building just off our route. **Constructed in 1934 St. Laurence's Community School is an excellent example of the International Modernist style adopted by the state for many of their schools at the time.** Next came a glimpse into the social, religious and philanthropic history of Drogheda as we gained access



St. Laurence's Gate, 13th Century Barbican

into some of the domestic dwellings within the historical **complex of St. John's Homes (c 1816) and the nearby Widow Housing at Peters Hill (1710-1715).** These most interesting complexes and plan forms prompted discussions not only on bricks, rubble walls, mortar and pointing but also adaptive re-use, energy efficiency in historic buildings, sensitive interconnection and lifelong housing.

At this stage we were only half way through our tour and Drogheda was to provide even more, as we walked back through the town down towards the river. Fair Street is lined with mid-Georgian houses, some of which were



St John's Homes, 1816

originally and unusually gable-fronted. Along West Street many early houses survive behind commercial facades and Laurence Street is lined with handsome houses and an interesting church/townhouse set-piece where it turns into Palace Street. Just before we approached the river we came upon the Abbey of St Mary d'Urso, founded c. 1206-14 outside the then medieval West Gate. The standing remains consist of part of the nave, chancel, the west gable of the north aisle, and the central bell-tower. It is built of roughly coursed limestone blocks, greywacke and rubble. We examined different stages of repairs carried out in recent years including consolidation, wall-topping and re-pointing.

Heading back along the river bank towards the port we passed many fine Victorian buildings still in commercial use with good quality brickwork, terracotta detailing and some original joinery. 10 North Quay is one such building dating from c.1880. Testing of original mortar in this red brick flemish bonded facade with yellow string courses, revealed a lime mortar containing volcanic ash. This was recently repaired and re-pointed very successfully with a lime mortar containing a black pigment. En-route to our lunch venue an impromptu discussion outside the Thosel (1770) re-modelled and in use as a bank since 1890, highlighted the difficulties of rectifying previous inappropriate interventions and providing universal access; as well as revealing a faux stone lintol over the door made of timber!

Needless to say, by the time we finally stopped for a somewhat late but lovely lunch in the High Lanes **Gallery, a stone's throw from our starting point at St. Laurence's Gate, we were well ready for a rest.**

With only one visit in the afternoon the last leg of our route took us to the far north of the town, an area dominated by Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, set within a variety of close-knit house types including small single-storey two-room cottages. Indeed it was within one of these small long narrow single windowed houses on Windmill Road that we discovered a state of the art Paediatric Cystic Fibrosis Outpatients Unit, annexed to the hospital at the rear. On approach from the hospital grounds it presents a well detailed contemporary red-brick façade behind which sits two out-patient pods for clients of the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland. This highly specialised unit, when complete in 2014, set a **new standard for CF Outpatients' Care in Europe. It was built using a non-standard brick with a slightly recessed lime mortar joint and an interesting parapet coping detail which is happily defying Irish weather conditions.** This final visit provided an inspiring and uplifting conclusion to our Walking Tour of Drogheda. (Text: Oiseen Kelly

Photos: Susan Roundtree & Lenzie O'Sullivan.)



Abbey of St Mary d'Urso, Drogheda Walking Tour



Thosel 1770, re-modelled as a bank in 1890



Paediatric CF Outpatients Unit, Drogheda Hospital

Newsletter

Building Limes Forum Ireland



Comments and articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the board or editor.

2018 Calendar of Events

February 6 th	Lime Slam Helen Roe Theatre, RSAI, 63. Merrion Sq., Dublin
February 9 th	Wet Dash / Harling Lime Render Workshop, Donnybrook House, Cork
February 21 st	BLFI—OPW Mortar mixes for our Built Heritage, OPW Depot Athenry
April	BLFI / SPAB Ireland Soft-cap & Re-pointing Workshop- details to be confirmed
May 3 rd	BLFI AGM with Guest Speaker, Irish Architectural Archive, 45 Merrion Sq.
May 4 rd	BLFI Hot Mix Mortar Seminar & Workshop- details to be confirmed
May / June	Walking Tour Spike Island, Cobh, Co. Cork
August 18 th - 26 th	National Heritage Week, highlight of Ireland's European Year of Cultural Heritage
September (early)	BLF Annual Conference & Gathering, Canterbury Cathedral, England
September (mid)	Feile na gCloch nis Oírr (Date to be confirmed)
September 24 th - 29 th	Earth Building UK & Ireland Clayfest , Irish National Heritage Park, Co. Wexford

Training & Education

www.traditionallime.com/

Traditional Lime Company, Rath, Shillelagh Road, Tullow, Co Carlow ph:059 9151750 fax:059 9152113
email:info@traditionallime.com.

www.stonewarestudios.com/

Stoneware Studios Ltd. Pillmore, Youghal, Co. Cork, ph:024 90117 · email:mail@stonewarestudios.com

www.thelimestore.ie/

The Lime Store, Unit B1 Ballymount Drive, Walkinstown, D12 ph:01 450 8624 email:info@thelimestore.ie

What is Building Limes Forum Ireland?

The Building Limes Forum encourages expertise and understanding in the use of building limes. It aims to achieve this goal by:

- exchanging, collating and disseminating information, through publication of a regular journal and by holding meetings and conferences;
- encouraging practical research and development through field studies, trials, monitoring and analysis;
- encouraging development of appropriate industrial and craft skills and techniques;
- educating building professionals, builders, conservators, craftsmen and women, and property owners in the appropriate use of lime in building through demonstrations, publications and courses;
- developing contacts with institutions and individuals outside the forum and in other countries that have relevant experience or knowledge.

Communicating With Your Forum

If you would like to respond to any of the topics on this or future newsletters or if you would like to get involved please contact us by post or by email on info@blfi.net

Buildings Limes Forum

The Building Limes Forum was established in the UK in 1992. The Irish regional branch was established in 1999, and formally constituted as the Building Limes Forum Ireland in 2005. It is affiliated with the BLF UK. It is a voluntary organisation with no commercial ties, the majority of members being actively concerned with the repair of historic buildings and some in new build. The Forum acts as an information network, and publishes newsletters and an annual journal of the BLF.

Membership

The BLFI is currently looking for new members. Membership of the Building Limes Forum offers:

- the opportunity to participate in conferences, courses, workshops, demonstrations and visits organised by the Forum;
- an informal network of contacts that is prepared to share information and to discuss matters of general interest to members;
- a means of supporting the stated aims.

An application form for membership of the BLFI can be downloaded on www.buildinglimesforumireland.com