



Glass, Stone and Bronze Casement Conservation

ST MONICA TRUST BRISTOL

News from our epic project in Bristol which will see well over 3,500 bronze casements and leaded lights removed, repaired and reinstated.

Stained Glass, Masonry and Metal Conservation

SOUTH SHIELDS TOWN HALL

Masonry , glass and metalwork repairs now underway at this stunning North East civic building

Church Reordering, Masonry Conservation

ST MARY'S NANTWICH

Our latest phase of work at the Cathedral of South Cheshire adds new visitor entrance and facilities

Stained Glass and Masonry Conservation

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SOUTH SHIELDS TOWN HALL

As part of the works to provide a modern working environment for the council Recclesia have been commissioned to carry out sensitive conservation works to the Grade II listed Town Hall building.

Masonry, Metal, and Glass Conservation

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ST MONICA TRUST

Following a survey by Managing Director Jamie Moore and Project Manager Stephen Evans, Recclesia have embarked on a project to restore the historic glazing at the Cote Lane Retirement Village.

Masonry Conservation

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WENLOCK PRIORY

Recclesia was engaged by English Heritage to undertake meticulous conservation and repair works to the remains of high level masonry of St Michael's Chapel, Wenlock Priory.

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Cover Photo: New carved stonework for Wenlock Priory



ST MARY'S NANTWICH

The latest phase of works at St Mary's Church has provided much needed reordering with the insertion of new facilities encapsulated by a new considerate and contemporary entrance screen.

FOREWORD

Jamie Moore | Founder and Managing Director

2016 has been a hugely exciting year so far for Recclesia. Between some supremely challenging conservation projects up and down the UK alongside our ongoing projects in the Republic of Ireland, the company continues to spread its wings. There are a lot of fantastic projects which didn't make it into this review, yet still we ended up running to twenty pages. For those of you who want to know more about us or see our full portfolio, our new website has just gone live and is looking terrific. As always, the heart of our company rests with the repair of historic church build-



RHUDDLAN CASTLE DOCK CONSERVATION

Cadw and Recclesia's team of skilled masons, led by Senior Mason Paul Warrant, have helped to preserve this historic site for present and future generations.

dings and ancient monuments, which by their very nature rely upon our core in-house skills of stone masonry, stained glass, metalwork and joinery. But we've also developed wider appeal as a specialist conservation contractor, completing an increasing number of larger projects as Principal Contractor on buildings which need a considered and sensitive approach hand in hand with professional project delivery and sensible commercial management. It is this part of our company which is experiencing the most growth and the one which has significantly broadened our horizons. To this end, we've taken on some very talented staff this year and you can read more about who's who further on. Our success is founded on good people; people who know their stuff inside out, who truly love what they do and who fully engage with the buildings they work on. Our team of conservators and skilled craftsmen and women has had to grow significantly this year, so we have been very lucky to have attracted some

stellar new staff with equally stellar skills. Finally, we couldn't do any of this without the continued support of our clients and their architects, surveyors and consultants and we'd like to thank everyone who has played a part in our success story. We're often appointed on recommendation alone and we'd like to think this says something about the way we work, our considerate approach to historically significant buildings and their care, and the excellence of our very specialist staff.

If you have a project you'd like to talk to us about, a historic building you need some help with, survey work you need undertaking, or just need to pick someone's brain, we look forward to hearing from you.



SOUTH SHIELDS TOWN HALL

Over the last few years South Tyneside's foremost civic building and its associated council offices have been undergoing a major face-lift. As part of the works to provide a modern working environment to allow the council to become ever more efficient, conservation works are being carried out to the Grade II listed Town Hall building.

Constructed between 1905 and 1910, the Town Hall stands as a fine example of an Edwardian Baroque public building. The aim of the scheme seeks to alter and refurbish the existing building to create a modern, bright, open working environment to accommodate various teams and services.

Whilst the majority of the works are internal, extensive works are required to the historic façade composed of brick and ashlar masonry with a mixture of Victorian

sliding sash windows and stained glass set into Henry Hope metal casements. As with many of Recclesia's projects, we were asked to carry out a survey and

provide our advice of any works required to the historic glazing, Hope casements, and all masonry. Jamie Moore (MD) and Stephen Evans (glass specialist and Project Manager) carried out the survey works which resulted in a detailed schedule of repairs. After extensive va-

"We were asked to carry out a survey and provide our advice of any works required to the historic glazing, Hope casements and all masonry"

lue engineering, the council decided upon an initial scope and we were appointed by the Main Contractors Willmott Dixon to begin works at the end of 2015. Led by Stephen Evans, with the assistance of Mike Batters (Senior Foreman) and Kat Walton (Studio Supervisor), Recclesia's team is now in the process of dismantling,





cleaning and re-leading approximately 100 leaded lights from 41 windows, alongside the conservation and repair of the Hope metal casements, fabrication of replacement frames and an extensive programme of masonry repairs. As the building will still be in use for civic events and weddings, the client wanted to ensure that while the windows are in our workshops they appeared to be in place. As such we have produced specially made, temporary, imitation panels using perspex and film that give the appearance the glass is still in place. The project also includes the removal and careful cleaning of the Hope steel casements back to bare metal (equivalent of SA2.5 standard) to allow a new paint system to be applied. Once cleaned each frame is being thoroughly assessed for repairs, which will then be carried out by Mike and our metalworking team, including specialist metal replication of historic ironmongery. Due to the extensive corrosion of 5 large fra-

PROJECT DATA

CLIENT: South Tyneside Council

ARCHITECT: Anthony Keith Architects

MAIN CONTRACTOR: Willmott Dixon

BUDGET: £9.5m (Our works £600,000+)

SERVICES: Stained Glass Conservation,
Stone Masonry Conservation, Heritage
Consultancy, Specialist Laser Cleaning,
Metal Conservation

mes, the largest measuring approximately 4.7m x 2.5m, it is not possible to conserve them so we are carefully replicating each one to match the existing profiles which will then be fitted onsite prior to the restored stained glass being returned.

The project has been challenging as a result of its size and the need for careful cataloguing of original building fabric prior to conservation work. Keeping the building in use has also resulted in some difficult programming and coordination, but our solutions have been creative and accommodating, balancing carefully controlled budgets with the needs of the client and users of the building. The project is not due for completion until April 2017, with extensive masonry repairs and cleaning works still to be carried in addition to the return of the windows. As such we will certainly be writing some more pieces on the project, which will see every part of this wonderful building transformed and reworked to continue its civic role at the heart of South Shields.

“Our solutions have been creative and accomodating, balancing carefully controlled budgets with the needs of the client and users of the building”



WENLOCK PRIORY

Commissioned by English Heritage, Recclesia, undertook meticulous conservation and repair works to the remains of high level masonry of St Michael's Chapel, Wenlock Priory.

Centuries of exposure to the weather and the loss of the spandrels to the clerestory windows had left the soft sandstone voussoir stones particularly exposed. Although an attempt had been made in the past to protect these less durable areas of masonry with lead cloaking this had proven unsuccessful. As such, rain water was becoming trapped preventing the masonry from properly drying out and causing further erosion and damage from freeze/thaw action. The original aim of the project was to slow the decay to the fabric, however the extent of the severe erosion and displacement of several of the voussoirs and sections of the western mullion required this to be reconsidered. It was therefore decided that it would be best to rebuild and reset these areas with minimal new stonework, as these would otherwise fail, causing a significant health and safety risk to visitors and a significant loss to the readability and understanding of the highly important site. Great care was taken to preserve as much original masonry as possible, removing vegetation, descaling in areas where there was an imminent risk of failing masonry, and re-pointing with specialist lime mor-

tar. The lead cloaking was removed from the arches, and small areas dismantled. Following extensive analysis and research of the original forms of the mullions and arches, new hand carved masonry was then produced at Recclesia's purpose-built masonry workshops, using stone sourced to match the existing masonry in composition and appearance. These new sections were then sensitively constructed ensuring the form and setting out of the original masonry was maintained.

PROJECT DATA

CLIENT: English Heritage

ARCHITECT: N/A

BUDGET: £75,000

SERVICES: Stone Masonry

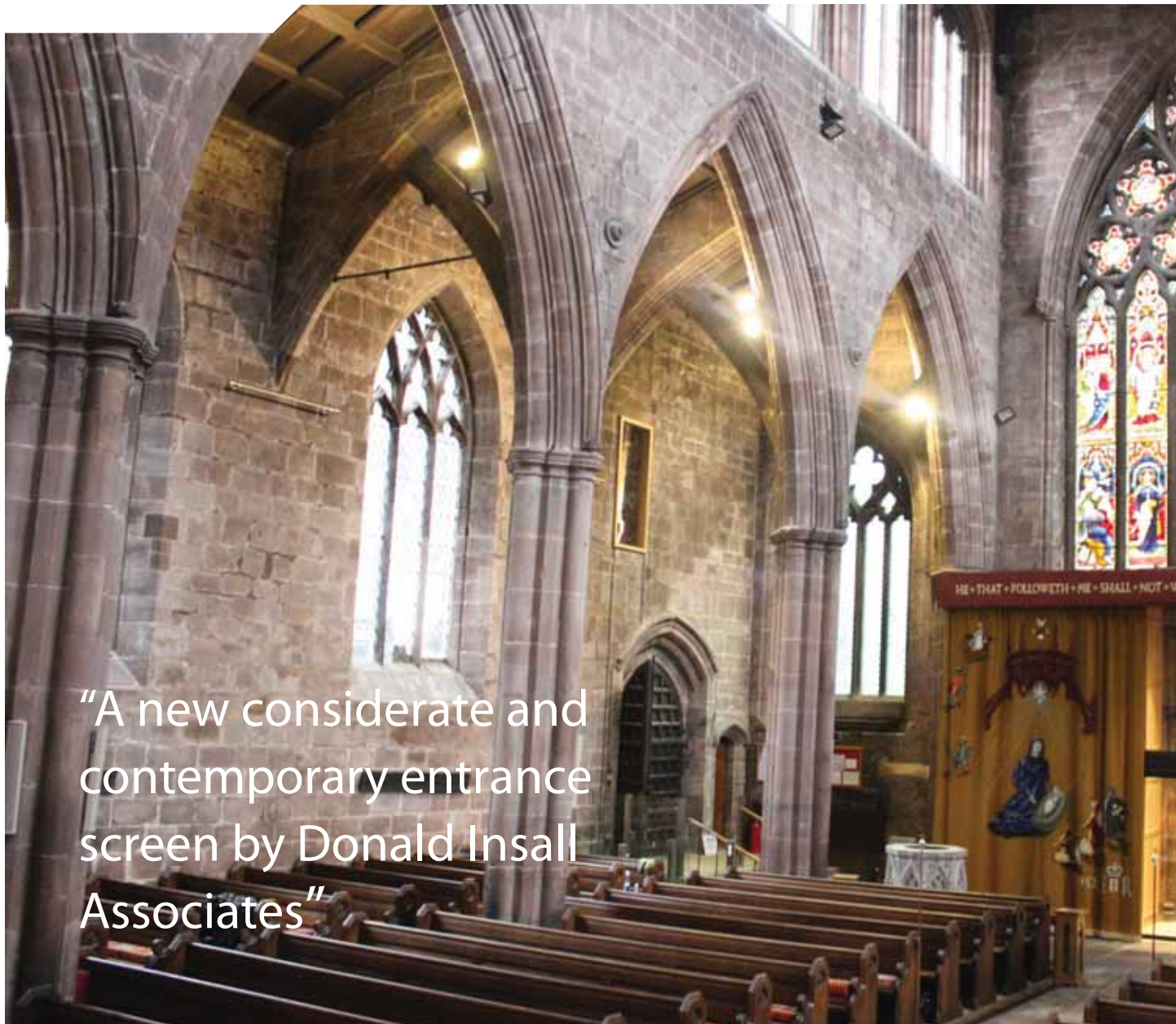
Conservation, New Architectural

Masonry, Lime Mortars



ST MARY'S, NANTWICH

At the heart of the historic market town of Nantwich, Cheshire, St Mary's Church has stood as a beacon for over 800 years. Since its principal construction, between 1280 and 1390, the Grade I listed church has seen numerous phases of building works and additions. The latest phase of works has provided much needed reordering with the insertion of new facilities encapsulated by a new considerate and contemporary entrance screen designed by Donald Insall Associates.

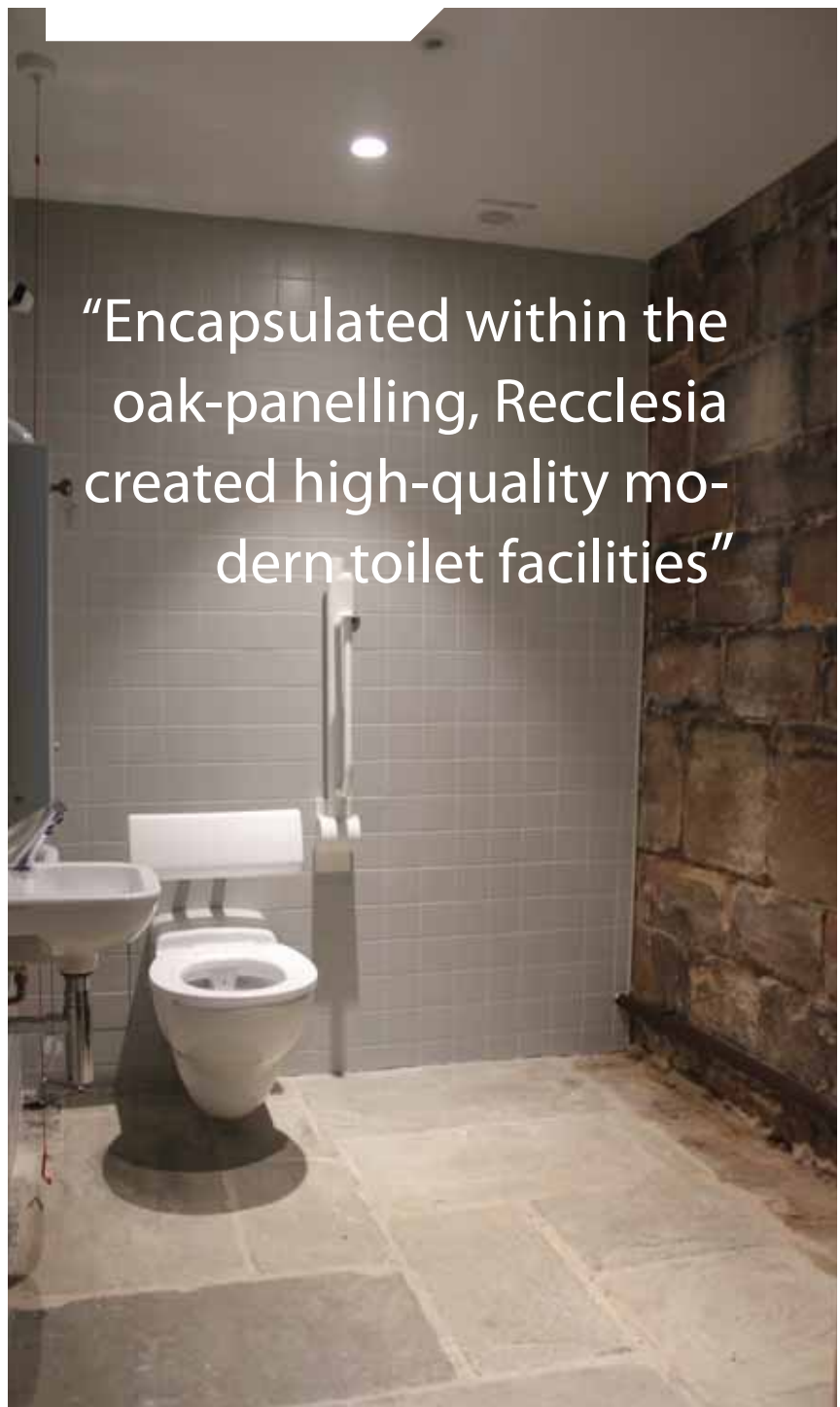


"A new considerate and contemporary entrance screen by Donald Insall Associates"

Throughout its history St Mary's Church, Nantwich, has undergone several adaptations and changes: The South Porch was added in the late 15th or early 16th century; The nave roof raised and clerestory windows inserted; in the early 17th Century the nave floor was raised because of flooding; and in the 19th Century the church went through an extensive restoration under the guidance of Sir Gilbert Scott. Today the reordering works, carried out by Recclesia's specialist masons and

conservation team, aimed to open up the Church to the town, making it more welcoming and accessible. A glazed lobby, with state of the art automatic glass doors, was constructed to let light shine into the building and allow the historic west doors to be kept open during the day. This helps to encourage visitors to explore the magnificent church, offering a framed view from the town into the church from the town. The modern glazed lobby is set within a specially constructed oak-panelled screen, the

West Screen as it has been named, which offers a more traditional appearance. The resulting juxtaposition helps to prevent a clash between the contemporary design and the historic building fabric and captivating stained glass west window. Encapsulated within the oak-panelling, Recclesia created high-quality modern toilet facilities on the ground floor, with storage rooms above, allowing the church to be used with greater flexibility. To allow the toilet facilities to be cons-



tructed, extensive ground works and new services needed to be inserted. This included the fitting of a new subterranean pumping station outside the church and associated new drains. Due to the nature of the site and its extensive history, groundworks were carried out with great care and supervised by a qualified archaeologist to ensure any archaeological remains were carefully recorded where found. These works

required careful planning by Recclesia's experienced team, and close co-operation with the church's PCC and Donald Insall Associates. This enabled the church to remain open, continuing services and

funereal duties throughout the works. Disabled access to the church was improved throughout, with floors being raised to eliminate steps, and the addition of a new glass platform lift at the south entrance paved in York stone flags to care-

"The close collaboration between the church and project team was key to the success of the project."

fully blend the old and new together. To help the new contemporary lift blend more seamlessly into the beautiful setting, the platform was paved with York stone flags, providing a flowing conti-

nuity of the original materials. Disabled access was also improved to the north and south transepts, through the replacement of temporary ramps with permanent stone ramps, again providing continuity of the historic York stone flags,

allowing a more permanent and aesthetically sympathetic solution to the access problem. The close collaboration between the church and project team was key to the

success of the project. The completed re-ordering now allows the church to continue to develop its active role within the community; with the West Screen standing as a clear signifier of its continuation into the future, whilst remaining respectful of its past, through its creative use of traditional and contemporary materials and craftsmanship.



PROJECT DATA

CLIENT: St Mary's Church,
Nantwich, PCC
ARCHITECT: Donald Insall
Associates
BUDGET: £140,000
SERVICES: Stone Masonry
Conservation, Contemporary
Building Services, Heritage Joinery

OTHER NOTABLE WORKS

ST CATHERINE'S, TUGFORD | Budget £170k

Nestled in the hills of South Shropshire, St Catherine's Church Tugford dates from the twelfth century and is Grade II* listed, notable for its mischievous sheela-na-gigs at the South door. Completed in March, this HLF funded project saw the entire church and tower re-roofed following extensive and quite complicated joinery and masonry repairs to the structure beneath. At the same time, a new lighting scheme was introduced and a new drainage system installed throughout.



St Catherine's, Tugford

CASTELL DINAS BRAN | Budget £36k

Towering high above the Dee Valley and the bustling town of Llangollen, Castell Dinas Bran occupies one of Britain's most spectacular sites. Whilst the project was relatively small in scale, it posed significant logistical and technical challenges as the complexity of work would have been difficult at ground level, let alone at the top of a mountain. The section of the surviving castle in question had been identified as structurally unsound due to some quite uneven erosion, leaving the top of the free-standing arch in a permanently cantilevered position. The objective of the project was to address this instability by way of the insertion of four support rods up to four meters in length, straight through each side of the arch.



St Michael's, Munslow

ST MICHAEL'S, MUNSLOW | Budget £260k

The grade I listed St. Michael's Church Munslow was in a fairly sorry state prior to works, with a vast array of problems requiring extensive works including of the re-roofing of the Nave, Chancel and North Aisle using hand-made clay tiles, extensive joinery repairs, reinstatement of lath and plaster ceilings using haired lime putty, structural masonry repairs using helical bars and Cintec anchors, extensive masonry conservation, repair and consolidation of the tower, plaster conservation work and installation of new storm and French drainage system throughout. Though the project began with a smaller scope, this was ultimately able to grow thanks to some grant funding awarded towards the end of the original programme of work. Carrying out the works almost entirely in-house, Recclesia was able to ensure the sequencing of works enable the church was kept in use throughout the works, central to a satisfied client.

Castell Dinas Bran





ST MONICA TRUST

Following a month-long condition survey of the historic glazing by Recclesia, on behalf of the Trust, we drew up a detailed schedule of repairs to well over 3,500 leaded lights and bronze casements. We then embarked upon the £1.1M repair project in 2015 with the works not due to finish until 2017.





It was in the early twentieth century that Monica Wills first devised the idea of creating a small rest home for five or six missionary friends. This idea grew and by 1919 Monica and her husband Henry Wills, purchased the Cote house estate, and founded a charity named the St Monica Home of Rest. The Wills then commissioned their friend and architect George Oatley to design the home. After the site was cleared, priority was given to the building of the new chapel that would form the center piece of the complex. Five years after the foundation stone for the chapel was laid in 1920, the building of the St Monica Home was finally completed. At first between 70 and 80 resi-

dents were housed in the main house, with Oatley Court being used as housing for the live-in nursing staff. Today the site is known as the Cote Lane Retirement village, and is run by the St Monica Trust. At its heart is are the grade II listed Oatley House and St Monica's Court, the former home to 70 retirement homes and the latter to around 30 residents. Oatley chose an Elizabethan revival style, incorporating course penant rubble with limestone dressing and squared leaded light windows. In 2014 Jamie Moore, Managing Director, was asked by the Trust to carry out an extensive survey to the historic buildings as many of the windows



were leaking and there were localized issues with the stonework. Following the survey it was determined that the leaded lights needed to be removed to the specialist workshops, stripped, cleaned, re-leaded, and reset back in the buildings' historic bronze casements. As such for the past year the specialist site team, overseen by Mike Batters and Sarah Woodall have removed over half of the windows. Whilst they are not the most complicated pieces of leaded glazing Recclesia have worked on, being composed of only rectangular sections of glass, the difficulty has come from sheer quantity. To date over 1500 leaded lights have been remade, requiring over 5000 individual pieces of glass to be carefully cleaned by hand. Over a ton of putty and well over a mile of lead came has been used. All this, with nearly 700 windows still to work on over the next year.

"...over 1000 leaded lights have been remade, requiring over 5000 individual pieces of glass to be carefully cleaned by hand. Over a ton of putty and well over a mile of lead came has been used."

PROJECT DATA

CLIENT: St Monica Trust

ARCHITECT: N/A

BUDGET: £1.1 Million

SERVICES: Stone Masonry

Conservation, Heritage

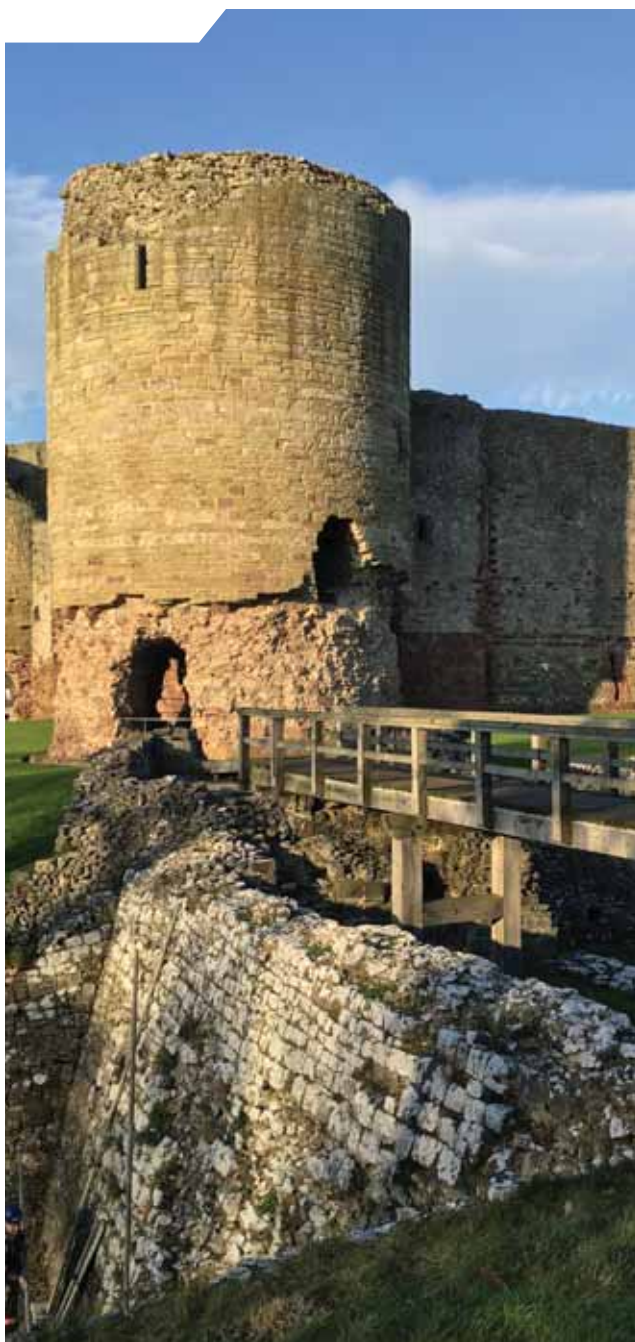
Consultancy, Glass Conservation,

Bronze Metal Conservation



RHUDDLAN CASTLE DOCK

The impressive Rhuddlan Castle stands as a dominant, yet ruinous, feature alongside a once strategic crossing point of the river Clwyd in Denbighshire, North Wales. Cadw and Recclesia's team of skilled masons, led by Senior Mason Paul Warrant helped to preserve this historic site for present and future generations.



Throughout the 12th and 13th centuries castles were built across North Wales by Englishmen and Welshmen alike, to act as fortresses for military, political, and social domination of the areas they commanded. Rhuddlan, one such castle, was constructed in the 13th Century in a concentric form (walls within walls), and as with most ruinous castles, much of the outer walls have now disappeared. However the inner walls, and the sections that once created the moat that ringed the castle can still be clearly appreciated by visitors to this day. The historic site is now one of over a hundred monuments managed by Cadw, the Welsh Government's Historic Environment service. To provide an accessible and well-protected historic environment they manage various programs of work to the wide range of monuments under their custodianship, and at Rhuddlan their most recent conservation program has ensured the

consolidation of an extremely important area of the monumental ruins. Located to the southwest of the castle, is the clearly discernible Gillot's tower. This is believed to be where access was provided from the river to the castle through a water postern, providing one of the castle's four access points via a dock where ships could load and unload supplies and men. The u-shaped enclosure of the dock was composed of solid masonry walls, with a rubble core, which acted as a retaining wall to earth behind. Unfortunately much of the faced stone has been lost on the side furthest from the castle, but a large amount remains on the nearest side of the enclosure, allowing visitors to clearly see the make-up of the docksides and even discern the methods of construction where the rubble core is exposed. To help conserve the dock walls, a programme of works was outlined by Cadw and architects from Donald Insall Associates. Paul and his team of masons' first task was to ensure any vegetation was sensi-



“The extensive collaboration... helped to prevent damaging both the evidential and aesthetic value of the site”

vely removed from the stonework, as this can cause significant bio-deterioration due to the penetration of root systems into open joints and cracks and the subsequent displacement or splitting of stones. A lesser known reason for the removal of vegetation growth is that it can also create chemical imbalances, altering the pH of the stone surface and mortars, a common cause of stone and mortar decay. Once the sensitive removal of vegetation was complete, Paul's team were able to begin the process of raking out any failed areas of pointing, cleaning away any earth deposits being forced through by water ingress from the banks behind, and repointing with new lime mortar. This process undoubtedly ensures a more sensitive and sustainable approach, giving the added benefit that the high skill level required not only guarantees a high quality of workmanship but is also more reflecti-

ve of the skill and craftsmen originally employed during the castle's construction. Due to the exposed position and the nature of weather, water was pooling on exposed surfaces and entering the structure through cracks and open joints, accelerating the decay of this unique section of the castle. To combat this, areas of the remaining facing stones and exposed rubblework required extensive localised pointing. Other areas also required flaunching, a method that reduces the opportunity of water ingress and pooling on the stonework. Both flaunching and pointing are done with extreme care and consideration as, if applied too liberally, they can significantly change and even obscure a visitor's understanding and interpretation of a site and thus be harmful to the heritage significance. At Rhuddlan the extensive collaboration between the client team and Recclesia helped to prevent damaging both the evidential and aesthetic value of the site, whilst confirming an approach that would be both financially viable and provide suitable protection of the castle dock walls.

PROJECT DATA

CLIENT: Cadw

ARCHITECT: Donald Insall Associates

BUDGET: £170,000

SERVICES: Stone Masonry

Conservation, Lime Mortars

NEWS IN BRIEF

Welcome

We pride ourselves on our informed and knowledgeable staff, many of whom have academic as well as hands-on training in their specialist fields. As such we are very pleased to welcome Elizabeth Sinkova and Lee Bilson to the Recclesia team. Elizabeth joined us in July as a specialist stained glass worker, with a background in architectural and stained glass painting and conservation. Having obtained a first in Architectural Glass from Swansea and Glass Painting from The Glass Making School in the Czech Republic, she joins after a 40 week work placement awarded by The Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass. This gave her the opportunity to work at a number of prestigious glass studios within the UK and Germany, including Reyntiens Glass Studio, Canterbury Cathedral, and Salisbury Cathedral.

Lee Bilson joined the team in January, taking up the role of Heritage Consultant having previously worked on a vast range of prestigious heritage projects, from the conservation of The Temperate House at Kew Gardens to completing condition surveys for the HMS Victory. Recclesia is increasingly asked to complete condition surveys of historic fabric by clients, custodians and conservation architects and Lee will be picking up this growing workload and developing this aspect of the business. Having obtained his BArch from the Glasgow School of Art and his MSt in Building History at Cambridge, Lee has developed his fervent passion for the historic built environment, and has gained a thorough understanding of how best to care for it from his many years working in the sector.

Other new arrivals to the team are Jim Turner, who joins our stained glass team having worked in the industry for 15 years, and within the last few weeks Jim Griffith who joins our heritage carpentry team having recently completed his NVQ level 2 in carpentry and joinery. We are also very happy to welcome back to our masonry team Paul Warrand Jnr who has nearly 15 years of experience working in masonry conservation and heritage masonry qualifications.

Images from Top: Lee Bilson, Elizabeth Sinkova
Middle (From Left): Jim Turner, Paul Warrand Jnr
Bottom (From Left): Stephen Evans, Kat Walton



Congratulations

Recclesia believes in creating a working environment that encourages the development of our employees skills and knowledge. As such great attention is given to ensure we provide career opportunities all our employees can aspire to. We are therefore pleased to announce the following members of our team who have been promoted over the course of the last year. After 5 years working with the stained glass team Stephen Evans has been promoted to Project Manager, along with Paul Warrand who is now our Senior Mason and a Project Manager. Congratulations also go to Kat Walton, who has now been promoted to Studio Supervisor to provide assistance to the management team with the day to day running of the Recclesia's specialist stained glass workshops. Kat has been working with Jamie, providing her glass painting and stained glass expertise, since completing her MA in Glass in 2004, and will be helping in developing our works even further.



Images clockwise from top right: Muckcross House, The removal of the Hutton Panels, Handley Oak during ongoing repair works, The East Window of St Alkmund's Church during conservation works.



Live Projects

St Monica Trust, Bristol

Conservation and repair of bronze casements and leaded light glazing to grade II listed building | Project Value: £1.1m

South Shields Town Hall, South Shields

Conservation and repair of steel casements and stained glass to grade II listed building | Project Value: £600k

Handley Oak, Handley

Timber repairs to grade II listed 17th century timber framed house and insertion of modern infill panels | Project Value: £65k

The Hutton Panels, Bank Station London

Specialist removal and storage of fragile historic etched glass panels, with subsequent conservation works and reinstatement in new location | Project value: £100k to date

All Saints Church, Berrow

Masonry repairs and repointing, insertion of new timber flooring and drainage works | Project value: £90k



St Bartholomew's Church, Bayton

Reordering and extensive conservation works to grade II* listed church building | Project value: £325k

St Alkmund's Church, Whitchurch

Conservation and repair of Warrington stained glass & masonry to Apse | Project Value: £70k

Muckcross House, Ireland

Specialist metal window casement repairs and leaded light glazing conservation | Project value: £80k

Churches of St Cian & St Engan

Masonry conservation and repair work to two listed churches | Project Values: £30k each

Stratford Place, Mayfair & Walpole Street, Chelsea

Specialist design and replication of historic fanlights no longer in existence | Project Value: £14k+

And many more to come....





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