

B

B

C

RESTORATION



Griff Rhys Jones kicks off a major
new campaign for Britain's historic
buildings at risk
Launching in May 2004 across the UK

BBC
TWO

Restoration returns in 2004 to throw a lifeline to one of Britain's endangered historic buildings.

Viewers again hold the fate of a building in their hands as they choose among 21 of the UK's threatened architectural gems.

On Saturday 8 May on BBC Two, Griff Rhys Jones presents a launch programme for the 2004 *Restoration* campaign. This kicks off fund-

conservation groups who love and value these

Voting

Viewers will be able to vote for their favourite *Restoration* 2004 building shortly before the start of the main series in the summer.

Homes & Antiques supplement

A *Restoration* supplement will be issued free with the August issue of *Homes & Antiques* magazine.

So You Want To Save An Historic Building

Restoration campaign packs are available by calling 08700 100 150 or by logging on to the website. The pack contains information about how to launch a campaign to save an historic building, where to get grants and who to contact for advice. The pack also contains information and contact details for the 21 *Restoration* buildings.

Website and Interactive

Online, viewers can access detailed virtual tours of the viewer vote buildings and keep up with all the local campaigning – written by the campaigners themselves throughout the series – at www.bbc.co.uk/restoration

The Restoration Fund

The winning building will be restored from funds raised through The Restoration Fund – a BBC Appeal and registered charity 1098895.

Restoration Book

A book to accompany the second series is being published by English Heritage and will be available at all major bookshops from the beginning of July.

Griff Rhys Jones is building on a firm foundation as he prepares to open the doors for a second time to BBC Two's major campaign and series, *Restoration*. Last year's first series cemented itself into public consciousness by presenting viewers with 30 at-risk buildings across the

get involved in a telethon,” declares Griff, “but these buildings do need money.

“There are two aspects,” he explains. “It’s a long game – you have to be prepared to take time. You also have to make your case adequately – you can’t just go to people and say, ‘Give us the money’, without actually proving many things, including your own sense of responsibility. But it can be done. So it isn’t just Heritage Lottery money, although that’s a big part of it.”

Griff describes fund-raising for threatened buildings as “a Sisyphean task” and he speaks with authority on becoming involved in preserving the nation’s heritage. Some six years ago he agreed to front the campaign to save Hackney Empire in East London, partly because he mistakenly thought he’d performed there. “Well, I knew I’d been there and seen lots of things there,” he smiles. He’s worked like a Trojan and, although there is still some work to do, the theatre re-opened in January this year, after a £17m labour of love.

It was his tireless work for this Edwardian treasure – its spotlight has shone on Marie Lloyd, Stan Laurel and Charlie Chaplin, followed, in more recent times, by Jo Brand, Ben Elton and Ralph Fiennes as Hamlet – which led to Griff’s involvement in *Restoration*.

He’s also cared passionately for a long time about buildings in general. “I’ve always liked to see imagination and care and thoughtfulness in buildings,” he explains. “I’ve always been worried by what I would call the Fascist tendency, which is a very 20th-century thing. We have to be a multicultural, pluralist society, where people have different views on how to use the buildings.”



everybody and if everybody was interested and involved in it, we would probably live in increasingly beautiful areas, which is why public involvement is so vital.”

Griff has two targets in his sights which he blames for despoiling the capital, in particular, and he fires off a round of verbal bullets.

“One of the messes in London is street signs,” he stresses. “Some traffic signs make no sense, they’re just stuck up where people think they might be of some help or no help at all. ‘The North’,” he barks, strongly emphasising each word. “What on earth does that mean in the middle of London? It’s just a piece of rubbish. And why, in the centre of London, in a conservation area, do they still allow developers to put up huge hoardings covered in advertisements which then stay there for 20 years?”

He immediately answers his own rhetorical questions: “Some of the laws about improving our environment are toothless. It’s often site owners who want to redevelop and can’t get planning permission for whatever they want to do, who hang on to a building for ever and ever. As Michael Heseltine said, the first thing that should happen is that people should be forced to sell a building if they don’t have a use for it, or if they are claiming they can’t do anything with it; it should go on the open market, because they won’t harm themselves to sell it.”

He continues: “I wouldn’t be allowed, and nor would you, to put advertising hoardings on the side of your house, but because it’s a sort of quasi building site, they apply, they get permission, they put them up.

“So individuals feel slightly powerless,” he adds. “They don’t quite understand why they should live in a shitty Britain.

“I do hope,” he says earnestly, “that we continue to be a reasonably campaigning programme.”

Viewers can obtain a free copy of the campaign pack, *How To Save An Historic Building*, by calling 08700 100 150 or by logging on to the website www.bbc.co.uk/restoration

SCOTLAND

PORTENCROSS CASTLE

**Portencross
Ayrshire**

**Listing: Category A, Scheduled
Monument
Date built: c14th century**

**Ann McLachlan
Auldhill Cottage
Portencross
West Kilbride
KA23 9QA**

**T: 01294 823 799
E: port_n_x@hotmail.com
www.portencrosscastle.org.uk**

In the 14th century the Clyde estuary was the
M6 into the heart of Scotland. To protect this
crucial waterway, two castles were



Wool Mill is of international importance, as it is one of a handful of integrated local mills of this type left in the whole of Europe.

It is still working today, thanks to Hugh Jones, who has spent the last 30 years learning the skills and keeping the complex machinery running. But the building that houses all these machines is falling down around his ears – the mill’s roof is collapsing and the main beams are giving way.

HALL OF CLESTRAIN

**Orphir
Orkney**

**Listing: Category A
Date built: 1769/70**

**Hugh Halcro-Johnston
Orphir House
Orphir
Orkney
KW17 2RD**

**T: 01856 811 200
E: hugh@halcro-johnston.fsworld.co.uk**

In a remote and beautiful part of Orkney is a splendid ‘A’ Listed Georgian mansion overlooking the Hills of Hoy and Scapa Flow.

Rich landowner Patrick Honeyman wanted a house that would reflect his wealth and status and he looked to the Georgian elegance of Edinburgh for the inspiration when building the Hall of Clestrain in 1769.

The Hall was once home to Arctic explorer John Rae, who found the last link of the legendary Northwest passage and discovered the fate of the Franklin expedition.

In the 19th century, three-quarters of the Hudson Bay Company’s workforce were Orcadian and John Rae learnt his survival skills as a boy in the hills and waters around his home in Orphir.



Today the building is a tragic shell; but there are tantalising glimpses of its former splendour – a section of banister, a Georgian doorframe and the grand stone staircase.

Hopefully, it may soon have a new lease of life as Orkney’s first Boat Museum. The whole visitor complex will cost around £3m, which will restore the mansion to its former Georgian splendour. It will house the museum’s exhibits and will also have a room dedicated to the exploits of adventurous local boy John Rae.



The buildings

NORTHERN IRELAND

LOCK-KEEPER'S COTTAGE

Newforge
Belfast

Listing: Grade B I

Date built: Between 1827 and 1934

**Edward Patterson or Clare Jamison
Castlereagh Borough Council
Civic and Administrative Offices
Bradford Court Upper Galwally
Castlereagh BT 8 6RB
Northern Ireland**

T: 02890 494 500



This derelict cottage is the last remaining one in public ownership on the famous Lagan Navigation canal network. The cottage played a vital role in a water transport system that served Northern Ireland.

The Lagan Navigation opened in 1763 and boosted industrial development and, in particular, the economy of Lisburn. The chief cargos from Belfast were imported coal for the industries of the Lagan Valley, which were mainly linen.

This simple, vernacular two-storey house with four rooms is testimony to a way of life that is

now almost forgotten. The last lock-keeper took up his position in 1922 and he and his wife raised their family of 10 within the cottage's modest walls. All cooking was done on an open fire and washing was done outside; water had to be fetched from a nearby farm.

In 1954 the Lagan Navigation Company was dissolved, unable to compete with modern transport. The lock-keeper bought the cottage and stayed there until his death, willing it to one of his daughters, who, in turn, sold it to the council so that it would stay in public hands.

ARMAGH GAOL

Armagh

Listing: Grade A

Date built: Between 1780 and 1852

**Victor Brownlees
Armagh City District Council
Council Offices
Palace and Demesne
Armagh BT 60 4EL
Northern Ireland**

T: 02837 529 600

E: v.brownlees@Armagh.gov.uk



Armagh Gaol is Northern Ireland's oldest prison. It was built between 1780 and 1852,

and closed in 1986. The prison buildings span the history of incarceration in Ireland from the mid-18th century to the late 20th century.

In 1765 Archbishop Robinson was appointed

**Powys
SY22 5LY**

WORKINGMAN'S INSTITUTE &

T: 01691 648 417

Back in the 1830s a grim fate awaited those who fell on hard times.

Llanfyllin Workhouse is an early example of a building that was created as part of a government drive to reduce the tax burden needed to look after society's poor. At that time, society in Wales was changing from rural and agricultural to industrial, the population was increasing and poverty was rife.

A board of guardians was responsible for running the workhouse and a "master" was put in place to look after the "inmates". Each was run with a different degree of severity. Rules were strict, "inmates" were dealt with harshly and there was strict segregation of men, women and children. It was difficult for people to leave the workhouse once they had entered.

Built by well-known local architect Thomas Penson, the Llanfyllin Workhouse is architecturally impressive and one of the few remaining examples of its type. The interior courtyards were built roughly from local stone but an outwardly grand façade was built on to the front. The Workhouse is decaying rapidly and has been a target for vandals.

1920, but this Institute at Newbridge was, unusually, paid for by the miners themselves. The group of miners boldly established their own welfare scheme and, funded by subs levied from their weekly wages, built a hall that provided educational, leisure and cultural amenities for times above ground.

Placing a great deal of importance on education and self-improvement, these halls contained libraries and reading rooms, as well as areas for social interaction such as billiard rooms and social clubs. Interestingly, alcohol was never an option in the early days, with provision only for soft drinks.

In 1924, when the cinema was fast becoming a popular form of entertainment, the Newbridge miners took out a further mortgage and built the Memorial Hall. It contained a beautiful art deco cinema, a theatre and a well-used dancehall with the “finest sprung floor in the Valleys”.

The buildings were then at the heart of the community, with people coming from all over to attend the dances and various events, but they are now a target for vandals and the Memorial Hall, in particular, is becoming structurally unsound.

ENGLAND

REGION: NORTH

LION SALT WORKS

**Ollershaw Lane
Marston, Northwich
Cheshire**

Listing: Grade II and Scheduled Ancient Monument

Date built: 1894

**Andrew Fielding
Director**

**Lion Salt Works Trust
Ollershaw Lane
Marston
Northwich
Cheshire CW9 6ES**

T: 01606 41823

E: afielding@lionsalt.demon.co.uk

The Lion Salt Works is the only remaining open pan salt works in the UK that made salt from natural brine – a technique unchanged since the Romans used this method 2,000 years ago – and one of only three left in the Western world. Its buildings are characterised by attractive timber-framed structures, constructed to counter the effects of salt-mining subsidence in the area.

Located beside the Trent and Mersey Canal, the Works exported salt throughout the British Empire, often leading to claims of exploitation and oppression from the colonies, most famously illustrated by Mahatma Gandhi's salt marches in the 1930s.

The Thompson family ran the business for five generations, from the 19th century to its closure in 1986, leaving this unique relic as a monument to an industry which gave this region its economic lifeblood. It was the



The buildings

GAYLE MILL

Gayle
North Yorkshire

Listing: Grade II* and Scheduled Ancient Monument

Date built: 1776

Graham Bell
Blackfriars Monk Street
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE1 4XN

T: 0191 232 9279
E: nect@lineone.net



Gayle Mill is an 18th-century water-powered cotton mill and is located in the charming village of Gayle in the Yorkshire Dales.

The mill was built at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution by landowner Oswald Routh, who wanted to capitalise on the vast fortunes being made in the cotton industry. Powered by a water wheel from the local river, the mill has a sophisticated system of aqueducts and a millpond that are still in place.

In the early 19th century the mill was converted to a woollen mill, selling thread to village knitters who had a reputation at the time for producing fine-quality socks for soldiers fighting in the Napoleonic Wars.

In 1878 the mill's water wheel was removed and replaced by the revolutionary Thompson Water Turbine. The vanguard of technological innovation in its day, every modern turbine, including nuclear ones, are descendants of the Thompson. Gayle Mill is thought to be the last one remaining in its original location.

In 1890 a Gilkes Turbine was installed to generate electricity for the mill and village, again putting the mill at the forefront of technology – the village was not put on the national grid until 1948.

In latter years it operated as a sawmill, providing cradle-to-grave wooden fittings for the local community and has been left untouched since its closure in 1988.

SHEFFIELD MANOR LODGE

115 Manor Lane
Sheffield

Listing: Grade II*/Grade II and Scheduled Ancient Monument

Date built: 16th century

Clare Dykes
Project Manager
Green Estate Company
Manor Lodge
115 Manor Lane
Sheffield
S2 1UH

T: 0114 276 2828
www.sheffieldmanorlodge.org.uk

Sheffield Manor Lodge – a 16th-century manor house today located in the middle of an inner-city housing estate – was in its day one of the most important residences in England. It was here that Elizabeth I entrusted her loyal servant, the Earl of Shrewsbury, and his wife, Bess of Hardwick, with the task of

opus, *Don Juan*. Conservation and repair work is needed to restore this magnificent, largely untouched 13th-century monument. It is crucial that the West Front remains a Nottinghamshire and national landmark for the enjoyment of future generations.

BAWDSEY TRANSMITTER BLOCK

**Bawdsey Manor
Bawdsey
Suffolk**

Listing: Grade II*

Date built: Between 1937 and 1939

Mary Wain

Bawdsey Radar Group

1, Whitehouse Cottage

Gulpher Road

Felixstowe

Suffolk

IP11 9RJ

E: waingulpher@yahoo.co.uk

M: 07821 162879

The T-Block is an overgrown and rather
m



A number of buildings of historic interest surround the Green, in particular the Old Grammar School (above), which is in need of extensive structural work, and the former Saracen's Head public house, built in 1492.

The 15th-century, timber-framed "Old Grammar School" produced one of the Midlands' greatest teachers, a puritanical Mr Chips – the Rev Thomas Hall. He arrived in 1628 at the age of 19 and his time spanned one of the most dramatic periods in British history – the Civil War and, later, the Restoration of the Monarchy.

Hall transformed an early "failing school" into one that was famed throughout the land. His legacy to Birmingham also included one of the largest library collections in England. He was expelled following the Restoration and died a pauper.

The Saracen's Head, next door to the church, is now the Parish Office and meeting room. It is said that, up until the Civil War, Kings Norton was predominantly Royalist and Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I, came to the area leading a replacement army. The Queen is said to have slept in the Saracen's. Following the visit, a room in the Saracen's Head became the "Queen's Room".

REGION: SOUTH EAST

STRAWBERRY HILL

Twickenham
Middlesex

Listing: Grade I

Date built: 18th century

Judith Lovelace
30 Strawberry Hill Close
Twickenham
TW1 4PX

T: 020 8404 4370

E: Judith.lovelace@blueyonder.co.uk



Strawberry Hill is a world-famous house that changed the course of architectural history and appears on the World Monuments Fund watch list of the 100 most endangered sites.

Located in the leafy London suburb of Twickenham, Strawberry Hill is the Gothic villa designed by Horace Walpole, the youngest son of Sir Robert Walpole, considered to be Britain's first Prime Minister.

Strawberry Hill was originally a modest house but, between 1747 and 1792, Horace Walpole

– a high society and influential trendsetter – transformed it into a breathtaking Gothic fantasy.

It became the tourist attraction of the day with its pinnacles, stained-glass windows, bookcases and fireplaces – all based on designs from ancient tombs and cathedrals that had not been fashionable for hundreds of years. It was a stark contrast to the symmetrical Georgian Palladian mansions of the day.

Walpole's Strawberry Hill led to a Gothic revival in this country, which, in turn, led to great buildings such as the Houses of Parliament.

REGION: SOUTH EAST

SEVERNDROOG CASTLE

**Greenwich
London**

**Listing: Grade II*
Date built: 1784**

**Dr Barry Gray
25 Eaglesfield Road
Shooters Hill, London
SE18 3BX**

**T: 020 7346 3103
E: allgray@shootershill.u-net.com**

Standing 63ft tall on top of one of the highest points of south-east London and commanding spectacular views across the capital, this triangular and rare Georgian folly was erected as a token of love. Built in 1784, Severndroog Castle is the dedication of a grieving widow to her dead, swashbuckling husband. It is a lasting reminder of the daring, rags-to-riches tale of courageous seafarer Sir William James.

Sir William started life as the humble son of a Welsh miller. Aged 12, he went to sea as a deckhand and, at 18, he was in command of his own ship. In the employ of the East India

Company, he became commodore and commander-in-chief of the company's fleet, protecting their ships from pirates. His most famous battle was at Severndroog, just off the Bombay coast, where he defeated the pirates.

Alex MacLaren
Traditional Buildings Preservation Trust
27 Orchard Street
Canterbury
CT2 8AP

T: 01227 451 795
E: alexmaclaren2000@yahoo.co.uk

This great medieval complex of buildings, now partially ruined, was built to serve the second

The buildings

In 1851, the inhabitants of his home town were in for a surprise. He was one of the first people to use concrete in a domestic setting when he built the now-dilapidated Castle House. A rare surviving example, this visionary dwelling was a showcase for his pioneering pre-cast and reinforced concrete products. Concrete was used in virtually every aspect of construction, including moulded skirting boards, staircases, balustrades, mock beams, window mullions and gargoyles.

REGION: SOUTH WEST

SOUTH CARADON MINE

Cornwall

Listing: Scheduled Ancient Monument
Date built: Mid-19th century

Martin Eddy
Rural Regeneration Manager
Economic & Community Services
Caradon District Council
Luxstowe House
Liskeard
Cornwall
PL14 3DZ

T: 01579 341 000

Cornwall has been shaped by its industrial history, and its last mine closed only six years ago. All that now remains are the monolithic mine buildings, which are a testament to the county's past.

One of the largest and longest-running copper mines in Cornwall was at South Caradon and it has remained virtually untouched since its closure in 1890. It stretched over nearly two square miles, underground tunnels extended for 38 miles and four miles of tramways crossed the hillsides, bringing coal to the six engine houses and taking away thousands of tonnes of extracted ore.

The discovery of rich copper deposits in the South Caradon area in the early decades of the 19th century triggered an extraordinary burst of industrial activity that utterly transformed the appearance and economy of this area, with up to 800 men, women and children working at South Caradon alone.

However, for the miner working underground, there was a high price to pay – they would be very lucky to reach the age of 40.

REGION: SOUTH WEST

SHERBORNE HOUSE

Sherborne
Dorset

Listing: Grade I
Date built: 1720

Giles Harvey
Chairman
Sherborne House Trust
Sherborne House
Newland
Sherborne
Dorset DT9 3JG

T: 01963 231 14

This impressive early Palladian country house was built to impress the 23-year-old wife of octogenarian landowner Henry Seymour Portman. It also acted as a “half-way house”

Biographies

Griff Rhys Jones



Griff Rhys Jones is best known for his work with the BBC, most notably for *Book Worm* and the comedy sketch shows *Not The Nine O'Clock News* and *Alas Smith And Jones*. He is a prolific actor and writer and has recently been concentrating on radio work, with one of his shows, BBC Radio 4's *Do Go On*, picking up a Sony award.

Griff's other film work includes roles in *Puckoon* and *Wilt*, for which he won Top Comedy Actor at the British Comedy Awards in 1990. Griff has also scooped an Emmy Award for *Alas Smith And Jones*, and has been awarded two Olivier awards for his roles in *An Absolute Turkey* and *Charlie's Aunt*.

He was heavily involved in restoring the legendary Hackney Empire, which re-opened in January this year after a massive overhaul of the theatre by Tim Ronald's Architects. Griff led the Hackney Empire Appeal Campaign, which raised £17m and led to a major

programme of redevelopment and extensive restoration of the facilities, while preserving the original features that made it one of the most popular venues in London.

Griff has written a book called *To The Baltic With Bob*, about a sailing journey to Russia in a small boat, which was published by Penguin last year. The paperback edition will be released in November 2004.

He has recently finished filming *Mine All Mine*, a comedy-drama for ITV which will transmit in October 2004.

Ptolemy Dean

BSC (Hons) DipArch (Edin) RIBA, AABC



Ptolemy Dean is an architect who specialises in the repair of historic buildings and the design of new buildings in sensitive sites. Having worked since qualification in 1992 for a number of specialist firms, Ptolemy plans to set up his own practice, Ptolemy Dean Architects, in 2004.

Since the groundbreaking series *Castaway* on BBC One in 2000, factual programming from BBC Scotland has continued to expand rapidly, with new formats and outstanding individual documentaries for BBC One and BBC Two, plus the establishment of a strong presence on BBC Four.

Last year, *Restoration*



Endemol UK Productions

Endemol UK Productions – one of the UK’s leading producers of entertainment formats for the world-wide market – produces *Restoration* for BBC Scotland.

The company is the creative force behind the Bafta Award-winning UK versions of *Big Brother* for Channel 4 and E4 and is dedicated to ideas that work across a variety of media.

Other credits include a raft of prestigious documentaries exploring the living history of Britain’s built heritage. These include *Hampton Court Palace* (Channel 4), a fascinating, behind-the-scenes series about one of Britain’s most beautiful and historic properties. *Great Estates*, also for Channel 4, unveiled the history of magnificent buildings such as Warwick Castle, Chatsworth, Blenheim Palace, Leeds Castle and Castle Howard. *Royal Treasures* (BBC One) followed the building of The Queen’s new gallery at Buckingham Palace, and *Animal Park* – a revealing insight into the fascinating world of the Longleat Estate – is now in production for its fifth series on BBC One.

Endemol UK Productions has pioneered TV genres including the phenomenally popular “leisure entertainment” shows such as *Changing Rooms*, *Ground Force* and *Ready Steady Cook*. These continue to be some of the most popular programmes on British TV and have become international hits in more than 16 countries.

Other hit shows from Endemol UK Productions include *The Games*, *The Salon*, *Shattered* and *The Fit Farm* for Channel 4 and E4, and *Fear Factor* for Sky One. Coming soon on ITV1 is *Trouble In Paradise* – a new series that sees seven couples competing to win their dream life by transforming a run-down farmhouse in rural Spain into a profitable business.

Endemol UK Productions is part of the Endemol UK group, Britain’s largest independent producer, which makes over 8,000 hours of programming for UK television each year.

The UK group is wholly owned by Europe’s leading TV content multi-national, Endemol, which spans 21 countries.